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OPINION METER
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Bill proposes $25 fee for each scuba dive customer. PAGE 9

Diego likely next CPA chief

» Board shortens Deleon Guerrero's stay; buys out remaining 30 days

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Benavente

Long-time legislator and one-time lieutenant governor Diego Benavente will most likely take over the reins of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, replacing Edward Deleon Guerrero whom the board fired Tuesday.

CPA board chair Jose Lifoifoi confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that Benavente, who is deemed qualified for the job, has expressed interest to take over as the ports authority's executive director.

When asked about Benavente's chances of getting the job, Lifoifoi did not deny his support for and confidence in the former lawmaker, believing that Benavente can meet the board's expectations.

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'I did not tell board to fire CPA director'

» Inos wants agency to work on Tinian, Rota direct flights

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Inos

Gov. Eloy S. Inos told reporters yesterday that he met with the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors on Tuesday to lay out his expectations for the agency, including further improvements at seaports and airports and direct international flights to and from Tinian and Rota—not to suggest terminating CPA executive director Edward

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GUN SALUTE FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Members of the Department of Public Safety's Special Enforcement Action Section offer yesterday a 21-gun salute to 15 police officers and firefighters who have lost their lives or who have been disabled in the line of duty. DPS held the Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony in front of DPS building in Susupe.

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902 talk points list gets longer

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Permanent visa waiver for Chinese, Russians, CW extension added to topics

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' letter to President Barack Obama on a proposed Covenant Section 902 consultation will add the CNMI's push for a permanent U.S. visa waiver for Chinese and Russian tourists to the islands, four years since the 2009 grant of a "discretionary" waiver that is still causing uncertainty among investors and visitors to the Commonwealth.

Chinese and Russian tourists are an emerging lucrative

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Michael Jackson gets 40-year sentence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Defendant will be released in 2053 at the age of 74

Ex-convict Michael Anthony Jackson, who was convicted of kidnapping and raping a 15-year-old girl, was slapped yesterday with a maximum sentence of 40 years and six months in prison without the possibility of parole.

The 34-year-old Jackson will be over 74 years old when he is released from prison in the year 2053.

"Justice requires an effective deterrent. So Mr. Jackson and other child sex predators would be deterred from grabbing

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Local

CNMI pays tribute to 15 DPS officers, firefighters

» Commissioner works on museum project for all law enforcers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI, Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority paid tribute yesterday to 15 police officers and firefighters of the Commonwealth who lost their lives or who were disabled in the line of duty.

At the Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony, members of the DPS Special Enforcement Action Section gave a 21-gun salute for the officers shortly after Gov. Eloy S. Inos and DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero led families and officers in the presentation of candles and wreaths at the DPS monument in Susupe.

"Each year, we come back here to remember the sacrifices that men and women make everyday in the name of duty," Inos said in his remarks.

In remembering the officers' heroism and dedication to the call of duty, Inos also called to mind the sacrifices of these officers' family members.

"It is only fitting that we recognize the mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters who were left behind to endure the emotions while searching for answers to their tragedies," Inos said.

To the families, he said the Commonwealth will not forget their service and that the CNMI "will remain forever grateful."

In his welcoming remarks, Deleon Guerrero disclosed plans to build a museum for all law enforcers. He said it is his target that the museum will be completed by the next Peace Memorial Day on May 15, 2014.

He said the museum will attract visitors, preserve the lasting memories of those who have lost their lives in the line of duty, and as a tribute to their sacrifices.

Deleon Guerrero said that retired police captain Frank San Nicolas Camacho brought up the idea during a recent discussion.

The museum will be built at the former Superior Court building in front of the DPS central building.

Deleon Guerrero said a board of directors will oversee the project, which will be built at no taxpayers' expense.

The museum, which he estimated to cost about $50,000, will be funded through donations from the community and private sector.

Deleon Guerrero said that families and others can bring in their memorabilia for exhibition at the museum.

Inos commended the commissioner for initiating the project.

"I'm really happy to hear your vision in honoring our fallen heroes," Inos told Deleon Guerrero.

The governor said the administration will support the project and expressed his willingness to be a member of the committee.

The "fallen comrades" honored yesterday included police captains Justino T. Arriola and Tommy Alexander, police officers Erlinse C. Santos, Abraham S. Quitugua, Gilbert M. Taisacan, Wilgene T. Lieto, and Joe Charfauros, police sergeant Julian A. Manglona, resident director John T. Barcinas, and firefighters Ernie T. Dela Cruz and Joaquin M. Camacho.

Those who were disabled or injured in the line of duty were police sergeant Antonio SN. Borja and police officers Marvin S. Camacho, Jose Cepeda, and Victor M. Hocog.

Escorted by a police officer, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero carry a wreath to the DPS monument in Susupe at yesterday's Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Ex-convict allegedly burns wife's cheek with lighted cigarette

An ex-convict allegedly burned the cheek of his wife with a lighted cigarette at their house in Upper Miha Housing in Garapan Sunday afternoon.

Jesse L. Mettao, 39, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. His bail was set at $25,000 cash.

The victim told police that she was watching over her four children on Sunday at 2pm when Mettao came home drunk. Mettao allegedly punched the table, approached her and burned her cheek with a lighted cigarette.

She left the house and called police from a neighbor's house.

Police that responded to the scene said the victim was crying and had a small burn mark on her right cheek,

Police arrested Mettao that same day.

Mettao pleaded guilty in February to two counts of disturbing the peace in a domestic violence case and was sentenced to a couple of months in jail. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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'Legislature moving in the wrong path for education'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero could not hide his dismay with both the Legislature and the Executive Branch, whom he described as moving in the "wrong path" for coming up with inadequate budget plans for public education next fiscal year.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that both Gov. Eloy Inos' and the lawmakers' proposed $33 million budget for public school in fiscal year 2014 only shows their broken promise of supporting schoolchildren.

"We were hoping that this new Legislature is more responsive, but it turns out to be just like the last one. They're moving in the wrong path from what they are advocating before when they were the minority [in the last Legislature]," Guerrero said.

He insists that the $33 million being eyed for public schools next fiscal year is not an increase from the current $31 million allocation.

Guerrero pointed out that the central government, which is federally mandated to give PSS a budget that is a specific percentage of the total budget as part of the maintenance-of-effort requirement, still owes PSS a few million dollars, excluding the non-remitted allotments from previous fiscal years.

"Their $33 million proposal is not an increase. It's actually a reduction by $700,000 in our appropriation. MOE is a separate and different issue and they are bound to pay for the balance. It [$3 million] is only half of what they owe us in FY 2010. What they're trying to give us is the MOE, which they are bound to pay us. So don't confuse us!" added Guerrero.

He warned that the MOE is a serious issue with the federal government and, at any time, can take back the $44 million it awarded the Commonwealth.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded the CNMI $44 million in 2009. Of this amount, $32.4 million was given to PSS. Under this federal award, there is a condition that PSS must receive a specific amount of the overall budget of the CNMI government equivalent to 40 cents to a dollar. This calculation was later changed by USDOE, using instead the percentage point—or 25 percent of the overall government budget.

"If they're playing games with the feds…they better not because the [feds] can demand to pay back in full the $44 million they gave us," he said, adding that failure to adhere to the MOE requirement may also negatively impact all federal grants of the CNMI.

PSS officials earlier disclosed that the system is still owed by the central government a little over $7 million for the unmet MOE in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. However, the Executive Branch filed last year with the USDOE a request for a waiver on the fiscal year 2010. There has been no decision on this yet.

'What is left at FY'13 budget?'

The $31 million the Executive Branch wants to give PSS this fiscal year is broken down into: personnel cost at $26.7 million; all others at $2.029 million; and utilities at $2.2 million.

With five more months remaining to operate public schools this fiscal year, the system has only $11.767 million left on hand, or about 38 percent of its $31 million budget, according to acting PSS finance director George Palican.

Palican disclosed that PSS has already exhausted its $2.2 million budget for utilities and funding for the remaining months remains unidentified to date.

For personnel salaries and benefits, the remaining budget until the fiscal year ends is $11.2 million while for all others, $794,036.

Committee to keep intact $20M for Fund in 2014 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that his committee will ensure that Gov. Eloy S. Inos's proposed $20 million set aside for remittance to the NMI Retirement will be kept intact in the fiscal year 2014 budget.

Sablan said the $20 million will help prolong the Fund's lifespan by three to four months, which is still a big help, considering that the pension agency was earlier projected to last only up to March 2014.

If pending and future revenue-generating bills are passed by the Legislature and signed into law, then there could be more money pumped into the Fund, further prolonging its lifespan, he added.

At yesterday's meeting of the Ways and Means Committee, Sablan asked members to come up by Friday with a list of agencies they think should be called in for discussions about their 2014 budget.

The agencies expected to seek an audience with the committee are the Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and Northern Marianas College, among others.

"We might start meeting with these agencies on Wednesday or Thursday next week. Our target is to have a budget bill passed by the House by mid-June, so that the Senate can also work on it right away," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor's proposed $123.4 million budget for fiscal year 2014 includes consolidation of agencies with overlapping functions, privatization of some government services such as park maintenance, eliminations of some positions to improve efficiency, and more money for the pension agency.

Last week, the House concurred with the governor's projected resources of $145.954 million for 2014. Of this amount, $123.4 million is available for appropriation; the rest is for debt service and other obligations.

NMI Museum to host the first-ever Art in the Park

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another event that will bring the island's visual, contemporary, and traditional artists together will soon be launched by two government agencies.

Organized by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture and the Northern Islands Museum of History and Culture, the upcoming event is dubbed as the first-ever "Art in the Park."

According to arts council coordinator Darrell Moteisou, the event is slated for Saturday, June 29 at the museum grounds across the Taro Sue Park. It will feature local artists from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who will display and demonstrate their arts and crafts. The council is inviting artist-participants and non-art vendors to join the whole-day festivity. The event will start at 9am and end at 5pm.

Registration fee is $25 for registered artists and $50 for non-registered talents while food vendors have to pay $75 to participate. Selection is on a first-come, first-serve basis as space is limited. All interested artists and vendors are encouraged to contact Moteisou at 322-9982/83.

Besides supporting local artists, the event also intends to attract and increase more visitors to the museum, Moteisou said.

The Council is also gearing up for the annual Cultural Heritage Month Arts Exhibit scheduled in September and the year will be capped by the agency's traditional Christmas Arts Exhibit in December.

Moteisou said these events will boost the number of registered artists in the Commonwealth, now at 121. This is an increase from last year's 90 artists on three islands.

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902

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market for the CNMI, whose main market are Japan and Korea.

However, under the current setup, the Department of Homeland Security secretary can at any time lift the waiver for a U.S. tourist visa to Chinese and Russian tourists, and this poses significant risks to the still delicate tourism industry.

"We'd like to see if we can have some sense of permanence as opposed to just discretionary thing… We don't know if it's going to succeed but we're going to give it a try because it's really choking our ability to get bigger investments here," the governor said in an interview at yesterday's 2013 peace officer memorial ceremony in Susupe.

Russian and Chinese tourists are allowed to enter the CNMI without a U.S. visa for up to 45 days.

In early 2010, then governor Benigno R. Fitial said he was assured by DHS that the CNMI would have indefinite access to Chinese and Russian tourists "as long as there are no major security incidents involving these visitors."

Birth tourism, however, has become a concern. Pregnant tourists, especially from Asian countries such as China, fly to the CNMI under the visa waiver program, to give birth here and enable these children to obtain automatic U.S. citizenship.

Inos said yesterday he also considers bringing up the needed extension of the federalization transition period beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

Without such extension, the CNMI could lose access to over 12,000 skilled and professional foreign workers.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian), in a separate interview yesterday, said a joint resolution supporting the transition extension will be taken up in the House's session next week, to help add weight to the CNMI's request.

"We need to show the federal government we are unified in our position. The governor and the delegate already made it clear they are supporting the five-year extension, and the House leadership feels the same way too," he said.

The governor said the law requires the U.S. Labor secretary to decide on any transition extension but it could also be pushed during 902 talks.

"We're hoping that we should just do it through the administrative regulations but then we want to solidify the issue of the parole situation. It can't just be a very temporary thing. We need to see if we can solidify that because we're out trying to get more tourists here, to get more investments, so there has to be some degree of certainty," he added.

Businesses in the CNMI especially hotels have made additional investments to also cater to Chinese and Russian tourists since the visa waiver program started, but there is still a degree of uncertainty whether the islands would continue to have access to these tourists.

These issues are in addition to the governor's plan of bringing up the planned U.S. military use of Pagan and Tinian in the proposed 902 talks.

There has been a growing opposition to the U.S. Department of Defense's planned use of Pagan for live-fire training exercises.

Taking this into consideration, the governor asked DoD to separate into two distinct environmental impact statement the proposed Tinian and Pagan ranges "to prevent the downfall of one because of the other."

Inos reiterated that the CNMI would want to benefit from Pagan's resources even before the military uses it for their training requirements.

He said the CNMI wants to see "what we can do between now and then, especially if by then the whole island would be destroyed, so we want to see what we can do now—not to exploit but to harvest—whatever resources we have out there."

Inos was referring to the long-planned mining of pozzolan and the development of eco-tourism on Pagan.

The governor said he has yet to send the letter to Obama because he is still "trying to refine the issues" to be included in the proposed 902 talks.

"On the military issue, we need to be specific because not all military issues may be negotiated. We got pretty much the Covenant provisions regarding military, defense responsibilities, but it's within that area. Like for example how do we get in and acquire property, stuff like that," he added.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments "on all matters affecting the relationship between them."

The 37-year-old Covenant establishes the unique relationship between the Northern Marianas and the United States.

Either party can initiate Covenant Section 902 consultations. The U.S. president and the CNMI governor directly appoint representatives to these 902 discussions.

JACKSON

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children and taking them away to be sexually abused, this court imposes the maximum sentence," said Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Jackson was given credit for 11 months, four weeks, and five days of time served. He was required to register as a sex offender.

Jackson was sentenced to 30 years in prison in the sexual assault in the first-degree charge, 10 years for kidnapping, and six months for assault. All three sentences shall be served consecutively for a grand total of 40 years and six months.

Camacho noted that the victim, who is now 18 years old, continues to relive her nightmare today, three years after it happened. He praised her courage for taking the witness stand and facing her attacker.

The judge said the girl's whole body was shaking as she told the court and the jury how she was grabbed and forced into a car, taken to a field in the middle of the night and was held down as Jackson forced himself on her.

Camacho pointed out that Jackson is a repeat offender, having been convicted in 1997 of burglary, criminal mischief, and two counts of thief. In that case, Jackson was slapped with a 60-day prison sentence.

Jackson's probation expired even though he did not complete his payment of fines or community service. His probation was also never revoked.

"Such is the leniency of past courts, it foster a perception that criminals get away with crime," said Camacho.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll, who prosecuted the case, said the facts in this case showed that the then 15-year-old girl was just walking on the road a couple of blocks away from where she lived when she was abducted. Driscoll said that Jackson's random act of extreme violence is "really shocking" to the community.

"The pain, the terror, and the trauma that [the victim] suffered at the hands of the defendant haunts her to this day, as evidenced by her emotional testimony at trial, and will likely continue to haunt her for the rest of her life," the prosecutor said.

She pointed out that Jackson has shown no remorse nor taken any responsibility for his actions that night.

"This is the type of conduct that demands the harshest of punishments," Driscoll said.

Chief Public Defender Douglas W. Hartig, counsel for Jackson, said that a 40-year sentence would be equivalent to a life sentence for Jackson.

Hartig said that Jackson has no family on Saipan as his common-law wife and their daughter, his only child, are both lost to him because of this case.

"He has found a new life, a new way of life, a new way of living since finding his way at Good News Church," Hartig said.

Hartig attached 30 letters from parishioners and he said that not one of these 30 letters asks the court to ignore the crime nor do any try to diminish the seriousness of the convictions.

"They just ask, as the law requires, that the court consider who the defendant is presently, and what punishment is appropriate for this person," he said.

Last April 26, the jury found Jackson guilty of kidnapping and sexual assault in the first degree. Camacho, who decided on the misdemeanor charge, found the defendant guilty of assault.

Police said the girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu from an Internet café and was on her way home on Oct. 9, 2010, at about 1am when Jackson forced her into his car, brought her to an open field at the Saipan airport, and raped her inside his car. He then forced the girl to smoke methamphetamine or "ice."

The girl later managed to run away, police said.

After the court announced the verdict, Jackson said this is a mistrial. He said he did not force anybody to get inside his car and that at the time he was on his way to pick up his girlfriend.

Jackson told reporters that at the time he had drunk 16 cans of beer and that he does not even know whether he actually had sex with the girl.

CPA

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero.

As early as March when the Cabinet was being reorganized, *Saipan Tribune* reported that former representative and former lieutenant governor Diego Benavente is expected to head one of the government agencies. That agency is CPA.

Inos said yesterday he met with the CPA board prior to the board meeting wherein they decided to terminate Deleon Guerrero.

"I wasn't at the board meeting [Tuesday]. I met with the board before the meeting. I basically kind of laid out what I want to see by way of improvement in the CPA organization," he told reporters yesterday.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota) expressed disappointment over the CPA board's firing of Deleon Guerrero, whom he described as hard-working.

He said that during recent public hearings on the governor's nominations of CPA board members, he asked them whether there will be continuity of progress. He said the response was "yes," only to learn that the new and old CPA board members removed the executive director.

The governor cited specific issues he wants CPA to address, including maintenance and repairs at the facilities, to help improve the tourism industry.

"We're doing a lot to attract more visitors here, more airlines, but our facility is limited so I essentially shared that concern and I asked them to do that. I also want them to take a look at the airport facilities on Rota and Tinian such as those facilities could take direct flights to help them out with the economy and so forth," he said.

When asked whether he suggested to the CPA board to let go of the executive director, the governor said, "No. That's an area I left to the board to make that decision. They have that fiduciary duty."

"I like to see what the CPA board members have, by way of replacement, transition, and just moving forward. We want to make sure that we move forward and not couple of steps backwards. But I'm confident that, I'm hopeful that they will do the right thing," he said.

When asked whether he would make a recommendation to the CPA board, the governor he does not want to delve into this "in the same manner that I never influenced whatever decision that they made in regards to the action that they took [Tuesday]."

Still, he pointed out that CPA is lagging behind in maintenance.

"We still have some infrastructure deficiencies that need to be corrected. We need a major repair, renovation, of the bathrooms, many things," he said.

The governor acknowledged that the Saipan International Airport, for example, is an "old facility."

"It needs major work so this is not anyone's fault. I think that they've tried their best to maintain the facility with whatever funding that they have and they're trying their best but I just wanted them to focus on that. Because it's the first facility that [tourists] see when the tourists arrive on the island, we just want to give them that impression," he said.

As for direct flights, he said this is especially needed on Tinian.

"That's been an issue for many years and that's one of the failures of the Tinian Dynasty, if it was a total failure, just the inability to bring direct flights over to Tinian," Inos added.

Other specific issues he wants addressed are a fuel farm, conveyor belts for the baggage system, increased enforcement activities at the ports such as customs.

He said the CNMI would also need assistance from U.S Customs and Border Protection if Tinian, as well as Rota, would have direct international flights.

"It's something that we do not control but we would like to ask for them to accommodate that. Because it is all about the economy," he added.

Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that he is proud of what CPA has achieved under his leadership, including full compliance in both its airport and seaport bond indenture agreements for the last three years and the expected completion of the rehabilitation of the Saipan International Airport's main runway this year, among other things.

DIEGO

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"Diego is qualified for the job and he's willing and interested. So for me, he's a good contender for executive director," Lifoifoi said.

Benavente has yet to return calls for comments as of press time.

Deleon Guerrero's $90,000 contract was set to expire in December this year but the board did not wait until then, voting on Tuesday to let him go.

The $75,000 contract of the agency's comptroller, Derek Sasamoto, was also not renewed.

Both were given 30-day notice to vacate their posts but Deleon Guerrero won't last until then.

Lifoifoi disclosed yesterday that Deleon Guerrero has agreed to have the board buy out his remaining 30 days. Lifoifoi said that Deleon Guerrero's last day is on May 24.

Saipan Tribune learned that Lifoifoi and Deleon Guerrero discussed and finalized the buyout during a phone conversation yesterday.

Lifoifoi also disclosed that both the executive director and comptroller posts will soon be announced as part of protocol. Interim officers are expected to be announced after the departure of Deleon Guerrero on May 24, while Sasamoto, after 30 days.

Despite his admission that he personally favors Benavente for the job, Lifoifoi maintains that the hiring of a new executive director should follow proper procedures, and that all applicants will have to apply for the position, including Benavente.

"We will be doing the proper vacancy announcement and once done, the board will deliberate, decide, and appoint the best candidate," he said.

Although the executive director serves at the pleasure of the board, some candidates in government agencies are usually "political appointees," which means they have the backing of the sitting administration.

It will be recalled that the CPA board amended the qualification requirements for its executive director in 2006 to accommodate Clyde Norita. This same requirement, Lifoifoi said, will be used to hire the next ports authority's next top official. Prior to 2006, the executive director position required a certain number of work experience in managing ports and airports, in addition to possessing the necessary degree.

Benavente was elected lieutenant governor of the CNMI in the 2001 gubernatorial election, serving with former governor Juan N. Babauta from 2002 to 2006. Prior to and after this period, he also served as a representative at the state Legislature.

AP classes eyed for inclusion in PSS online program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

High school students who wish to take up their advance placement, or AP, courses, at their own time and place may soon start doing so following revelation of the Public School System that these courses may be included in the distance education or online program of the system.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said the expansion plan is due to the increasing interest of students in the online program.

"I do see an expansion [of the distance education program] and hopefully I would like to include AP courses as part of that expansion by next school year," she said.

Distance education or distance learning is a mode of delivering education and instruction to students who are not physically present in a traditional setting such as a classroom. It provides access to learning when the source of information and the learners are separated by time and distance, or both.

About 1,800 students enrolled in the online program at the start of this school year, Sablan said. She expects this number to significantly grow next school year, thus the need not only to sustain it but to expand its offerings such as AP courses.

The AP program offers college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students in content areas like English and Math. AP classes are among the graduation requirements for senior.

Sablan conceded, however, that they only way PSS can expand the online program is to have more funds. She revealed that PSS reduced the number of online courses being offered this school year because it has not enough funds to pay for 1,800 students online.

She explained that in distance education, PSS finds and hires highly qualified teachers within the school district to teach online courses. Expanding the program with the inclusion of AP courses will require additional hires.

In records presented to the board by PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh during Friday's meeting, he disclosed that the system's distance education program has budget of $503,895 and that everything has been expended to date for the 48 online classes offered this school year. He estimates needing about $800,000 to accommodate the program's planned expansion next school year.

This is where the next fiscal year's local budget for PSS can come in and help sustain and expand the program, Sablan said.

"We have to continue to find ways to fund it…and we're counting on the next fiscal year budget for PSS," she said, adding that besides the anticipated additional teachers, PSS is also challenged by the Internet accessibility of students when they're out of the campus.

At Kagman High School, a handful of students currently take up AP classes and these include graduating seniors and some juniors who want to complete the subject in advance, according to principal Alfred Ada.

He believes that including AP courses in the online program will serve as a good training ground for college.

Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero said the option to offer distance learning education is always an effective alternative when an educational institution like PSS doesn't have enough funds to provide normal instructional settings to all students.

However, he is convinced that there are still challenges and concerns that may arise if one relies too much on the program.

For Guerrero, combining online and classroom teaching methods remains the most successful tool for effective learning.

Fund questions OAG request to respond to motion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund and the CNMI government both agree that the Fund's lawsuit against the government should be suspended, yet the Office of the Attorney General wants a chance to argue again that removing the lawsuit from the Superior Court was improper, according to a Fund counsel.

Fund counsel Braddock J. Huesman now asks the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the government's request as there is no reason for it.

Huesman said that whether or not removal was proper—the Fund believes it was, the government believes it was not—is secondary and irrelevant to whether or not the federal court can stay the case pending the settlement talks in Betty Johnson's lawsuit.

Huesman said the government takes issue with the Fund's argument that Public Laws 17-82 and 18-02 are before the federal court in Johnson's case.

"It is unclear why. The record is quite clear that Ms. Johnson vigorously challenged these laws before this court," he said.

Public Law 17-82 allows Fund members to withdraw the full amount of their contributions without separating from the government.

Public Law 18-02 compels the Fund to release up to 50 percent of members' contributions within 30 days of submitting a refund application.

Huesman pointed out that if settlement talks fail, and if Johnson continues with her challenge of Public Laws 17-82 and 18-02—and she has indicated she will—the government is free to argue that the two laws pass constitutional muster.

The federal court, Huesman said, will then decide on both of the laws in the Johnson matter.

"That decision will bind not only the parties in the Johnson matter; it will bind parties outside the Johnson matter as well," he added.

The Fund has asked the federal court to suspend the proceedings in the Commonwealth Ports Authority's emergency motion to remand to the Superior Court the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government.

The Fund's position is that the federal should not hear CPA's motion until the settlement process in Betty Johnson's lawsuit against the Fund and the CNMI government is completed.

In the government's request to re-argue the case, assistant attorney general Teresita J. Sablan said the government did not oppose the Fund's motion for stay since delaying the briefing could potentially save thousands of dollars in attorney's fees.

Sablan said the government maintains its non-opposition to staying the briefing of its motion pending the outcome of settlement negotiations.

Should the settlement negotiations in Johnsons' case fail, Sablan said, the record should clearly reflect that the government opposes the new arguments that the Fund asserts in its reply to CPA's opposition to the motion for stay.

The government lawyer said the Fund asserts that the removal of the Superior Court case was proper and that the legality of Public Laws 17-82 and 18-02 will be decided by the district court if settlement negotiations do not resolve the matter.

"The government opposes these arguments—removal was improper and the Johson court should not decide the legality of the public laws," Sablan pointed out.

Because of CPA's motion for writ, the Fund removed its 2006 lawsuit filed in Superior Court and transferred it to federal court.

The removal prompted CPA to file its emergency motion in federal court.

In the emergency motion, CPA legal counsel Robert T. Torres said the removal petition implicates no federal interest and ignores the important interest of the Commonwealth in enforcing its laws.

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Taste vendors hope to rebound from Saturday's 'terrible' sales

Sales at the 15th Annual Taste of Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden took a beating last Saturday, with tourists and residents alike opting to stay in due to the heavy downpour.

The torrential rain that started early morning and continued well into the evening spoiled almost everyone's plans to go to the American Memorial Park last Saturday to sample the best food the islands could offer.

Those who did make it had to contend with mud on the walkways while juggling umbrellas on one hand and the food and drinks they bought on the other.

Marianas Visitors Authority community projects manager Martin Duenas said the bad weather resulted in a smaller-than-usual crowd at last Saturday's Taste of Marianas. This, in turn, hurt overall sales at one of MVA's signature events.

"We are hopeful that this and next weekend's will bring more people," said Duenas.

Marianas Resort & Spa executive chef William Retardo couldn't hide his disappointment with last Saturday's weak sales.

"Last Saturday's Taste of the Marianas was very frustrating. Sales dropped more than half of what was expected. We somehow anticipated it early on that day but it is our commitment to the public to be there," he said.

Retardo hopes for improved weather this Saturday, saying they will be dishing out their usual crown favorites.

D'Elegance Café accountant Irene Santiago said that sales were so bad that they almost gave away their food rather than having them go to waste.

She said the heavy rain that turned the AMP ground into muck was the main factor for sales nose-diving by as much as 70 percent that evening.

Unlike the first weekend when they served food way past 10pm, Santiago said that D'Elegance Café's shuttered its booth as early as 9am last Saturday.

The only positive note that came out of last week's Taste, she said, was that those who did patronize their booth got double the usual servings and some even got some *pancit* to go.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan F&B assistant Socorro Huliganga said the heavy rain resulted in the Hotel Street landmark taking home just $500 last Saturday.

It was a good thing that Fiesta Resort only marinated their barbecue meats and didn't cook them right away, helping alleviate what could've been a bigger loss.

Mike Babauta, local sales manager at Saipan World Resort, said that their sales were down some 60 percent last Saturday.

Babauta lamented that after an "excellent first week, sales were terrible in the second week" because of the inclement weather.

He has high hopes for this Saturday's Taste of Marianas as he expects World Resort to "rebound from record-low sales last weekend because it's government payday."

Even Capricciosa and Tony Roma's were not immune. The two restaurants usually have the longest lines in the annual food fair but manager Atsushi Aoki said that sales were down 55 percent and 66 percent respectively last weekend.

He said he was expecting MVA to cancel the Taste of Marianas last Saturday because of the heavy rains, but probably didn't because it had already booked performers for the evening's entertainment.

Herman's Modern Bakery's Juan "Pan" Guerrero, meanwhile, said they were only able to sell half of their food items last Saturday.

In terms of tokens, he said Herman's Modern Bakery probably got 10 percent of the 9,000 or so total number of tokens sold that evening, which compared to other vendors was "still OK."

On a good day, MVA sells from 23,000 to 24,000 tokens at the Taste of Marianas, he said.

This year's Taste of the Marianas features 16 vendors and three establishments. The event runs all Saturdays of May. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Umbrellas seem to be the fashion in last Saturday's Taste of Marianas as patrons line up at the Mariana Resort & Spa booth at the American Memorial Park.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DEQ-111

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 28, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIROMENTAL QUALITY- ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARCTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-CRM-120 (R)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 10, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE BIDDER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RITA C. CHONG-DELA CRUZ
ADMINISTRATOR OF CRM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Notice of Zoning Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Friday, May 24th, 2013 at 5:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan
(Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • e-mail: www.zoning.gov.mp)

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of April 18, 2013 minutes
5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings
1. Conditional Use Application #2011-6268. Ms. Eleanor B. Alinas-Loste of Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC is proposing to operate a catering, as well as the processing and packaging of chips and other food items. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is located on lot 009 L 10/ 11, San Antonio, in a Village Commercial zoning district.
2. Conditional Use Application #2011-6272. Mr. Young Chul Lee of Musung Corporation (Heaven II) is proposing to expand the current resort operation (formerly held by O2 Scuba and Resort Co.) by constructing additional fifteen (15) 2 storey dwelling units. This use is classified as Hotel/ Motel and is situated on Tract No. 22667-2, As Denni, in a Rural zoning district.
3. Conditional Use Application #2011-6305. Mr. Do Yeon Kim of Phillip's Corporation, Inc. is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities at Ladder Beach and Obyan areas. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and its office is located on Lot 011 L 03, within Coral Ocean Point Resort Club's premise in Koblerville. These areas are within the Tourist Resort and Rural zoning districts.

C. Communications/ Reports
D. Old Business.
1. Update on the Zoning Law of 2013
2. Discussion on Zoning Overlay Districts

E. New Business
1. Office operations report

F. Executive (Closed) Session.
G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Heaven II Scuba & Resort

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request to amend a Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Young Chul Lee of Musung Corporation (Heaven II) is proposing to expand the current resort operation (formerly held by O2 Scuba and Resort Co.) by constructing additional fifteen (15) 2 storey dwelling units. This use is classified as Hotel/ Motel and is situated on Tract No. 22667-2, As Denni, in a Rural zoning district.

Date: **May 24, Friday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 22, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.No. (670) 234-6245 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
email: administration@cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

CDA SCHEDULED VISIT TO TINIAN

This is a public notice to the residence of Tinian that CDA Loan Manager, Oscar Camacho will be on Tinian on Friday, May 17, 2013. He will be at the Department of Commerce's office from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clients or individuals seeking assistance from CDA may drop by Commerce's office at these times.

SAIPAN FAMILY RESTAURANT

New restaurant hopes to tap underserved market

Saipan Family Restaurant will have its grand opening tomorrow at the ground floor of the New Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road.

Wayne Pangelinan said they hope to tap into the underserved market of residents and tourists looking for Chamorro cuisine.

What's been lacking on the island the past couple of years is an honest-to-goodness restaurant that serves Chamorro food to tourists and he hopes to fill that void with Saipan Family Restaurant.

As its name already suggests, Saipan Family Restaurant is a family-friendly restaurant with friendly pastel hues and paper table settings where kids of all ages are invited to doodle to their heart's content.

In fact, the drawings of previous diners and patrons already adorn the restaurant's walls and interior.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Family Restaurant will formally open tomorrow and hopes to cater to residents and tourists looking for Chamorro food.

Saipan Family Restaurant, Pangelinan said, serves a fusion of Chamorro and Hong Kong dishes and has a chef from the former British colony to train their cooks. The results are well-made local dishes with a twist, like its Coconut Fried Rice, Laughing Curry, Fried Spaghetti, Beef Finger, and Boneless Chicken.

It also has Sunset Dinner and Smiling Bento items as well as lunch specials and BBQ lunch specials.

Its 15 waitstaff take paperless orders with the help of iPods and iPhones and orders are immediately received by the kitchen's computer, resulting in a more efficient and quicker service.

"As much as possible we want to have our food out of the kitchen and into our diners' tables after a 15-minute wait," he said.

Pangelinan said they are also introducing the concept of food auction, where customers can bid on a dish that its chef is about to make after only looking at the ingredients.

The restaurant already tried the food auction several times since its soft opening a few weeks back.

On one particular evening, Pangelinan said, a dinner party was able to win a plate of specially made sushi rolls for just $12. On a more recent lunch date, a party of three won a delectable stuffed grilled squid for a mere $5.

The proprietor of Charcoal BBQ in Chalan Piao, Pangelinan hopes that three years of running the highly successful barbecue stall would help him and his partners in their new endeavor.

After a feeling-out period that included hosting 40-50 people on Mother's Day, Saipan Family Restaurant gets to formally open its doors tomorrow at 10am.

Pangelinan is inviting the public to try their new restaurant and to support local business.

Saipan Family Restaurant comfortably seat 80 people and is open from Sunday to Saturday, 11am-10pm. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Saipan Family Restaurant's Wayne Pangelinan auctions off a stuffed grilled squid for lunchtime patrons of the restaurant yesterday.

Canadian comic here for one-night show

Ron Josol, one of the most recognizable Asian comedians in Canada, will be performing a one-night show on Saipan this Saturday, May 18.

Sponsored by Bud Light and MarPac Distributors, "LMAO Comedy Blowout Featuring Ron Josol" will start 8pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

MarPac's Melvin Tenorio said they are bringing in Josol as a treat to the people of Saipan for patronizing their products the past 40 years. He said it also helps that the comedian is already booked to perform in Guam.

"We found out that he'll be performing in Guam, and thought to ourselves that this would be a good opportunity to bring in a comedy show to help MarPac celebrate its 40th anniversary this year," he said.

Tenorio is inviting the public to come out and watch the stand-up comic and help celebrate MarPac's 40th anniversary.

"Honestly, I don't know many will be coming. However, the Fiesta's Hibicus Hall can hold up to 450 people, so we're hoping to maximize this," he said.

Tickets to "LMAO Comedy Blowout Featuring Ron Josol" costs $20 and includes one free drink. The door opens at 6:30pm. Aside from MarPac, the show is also sponsored by IP&E, Fiesta Resort, IT&E, and Hertz.

Josol

According to The Laugh Factory website, Josol represents a new generation of comedy with his modish comedy style and commanding stage presence.

One of the hottest comedy acts today, Josol performs regularly in Canada, the United States, the Pacific Islands, the Persian Gulf, Asia, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East.

Josol won the Craven A's Funniest Home Grown Competition for the Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival in 2000. Since then, he has been performing in festivals such as the Winnipeg Comedy Festival, Montreal Just for Laughs Comedy Festival, International Comedy Fest 2k8, the Orange County Comedy Festival, and the LOL Comedy Festival in Hollywood, California.

Indubitably the most recognizable Asian comedian in Canada, Josol was profiled on the Comedy Network, ABS-CBN in Asia, Showtime Dubai, CBC, Discovery Channel, Echo TV, OMNI 1&2, MTV Canada, and recently, the Biography Channel Canada.

Josol has taped numerous stand-up comedy specials in his career. He first achieved his own comedy special in 2000, *Comedy Now!*, on the CTV/Comedy Network. He has been featured in ABS-CBN's *SlantEd Comedy* taped at the San Jose Improv, and recently recorded two comedy specials produced by Showtime Dubai. In January 2009, Hollywood producers took notice and gave him the opportunity to film his first United States national spot in the *LOL Comedy Festival* on Showtime USA. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DOC-116

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 10, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF DUTY UNIFORMS FOR THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICERS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER,
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

NOTICE

- Ruben R. Palacio
- Florencio O. Cabezo
- Edwin S. Legacion
- Lydia R. Marzan
- Helen R. Gaspar
- Tita L. Pacino
- Celso D. Agpawa
- Jesus B. Jacob
- Sonny P. Ibarra
- Wilfredo R. Llavore
- Lordita O. Dajeros

Please report to your employer immediately. Failure to report will result in your Termination and repatriation.

/s/ Misamis Construction

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Eleanor B. Alinas-Loste of Marianas Pacific Foods, LLC is proposing to operate a catering, as well as the processing and packaging of chips and other food items. This use is classified as Manufacturing and Processing and is located on lot 009 L 10/ 11, San Antonio, in a Village Commercial zoning district.

Date: **May 24, Friday**
Time: **5:00 pm**
Place: **Zoning Board Conference Room, 2nd flr, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan**

The above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the project may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments shall be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan no later than 4:30pm, May 22, 2013. Written comments may also be submitted via email to therese.ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Saipan Zoning Law of 2008).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
for
Sky ATV

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Mr. Do Yeon Kim of Phillip's Corporation, Inc. is proposing to operate ATV (All Terrain Vehicle) outdoor activities at Ladder Beach and Obyan areas. This use is classified as Amusement, Outdoor and its office is located on Lot 011 L 03, within Coral Ocean Point Resort Club's premise in Koblerville. These areas are within the Tourist Resort and Rural zoning districts.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Board Chairman

UOG students hold outreach in Chuuk

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the University of Guam's Social Work program perform outreach services in Weno, Chuuk as part of a "Fields of Social Work Practice: Social Work in Chuuk" class.

University of Guam Social Work students from the SW-400 "Fields of Social Work Practice: Social Work in Chuuk" class recently facilitated a "Mother-Daughter Conference" in partnership with the Chuuk Women's Council on the island of Weno, Chuuk.

The class presented topics related to motherhood, daughterhood, life skills, and issues facing women. In addition, class members participated in a cultural sharing session with administrators, faculty, and students at the College of Micronesia, Chuuk campus. The evening entailed a cultural food sharing, as well as a presentation from social work students about the University of Guam, funding education at UOG, and the social work profession.

This social work travel course was designed to help students become familiar with the Chuukese worldview, cultural value system, historical experience, and other dimensions of life to deliver culturally responsive and competent social work services to Chuukese clients.

"This class was planned in alignment with our university's regional commitment to Micronesia and in an effort to give students a deeper perspective about Chuukese culture and people. It allowed for students to critically examine their attitudes and beliefs about Chuukese and afforded them the opportunity to unpack any racist beliefs that they may have held about our Chuukese brothers and sisters," Natividad said.

After returning from Chuuk, students talked about how the experience affected them and inspired them to quickly organize a coin drive and school supply drive in support of the Akoyikoyi School in Penia village, a new, fledging elementary charter school that is struggling with the cost of day-to-day operations.

University of Guam student Antonio Diaz said, "The experience of traveling to Chuuk and immersing ourselves in the culture was surreal. I learned about the people and their culture, and how no one social problem is limited to one area or demographic of Micronesia. All of us in Micronesia are experiencing hardships, but the people of Chuuk are really utilizing as much natural resources as possible, and doing so in such a humble and inspiring fashion."

SW-400 Chuuk Travel Course will be held every two years and is open to students in degree programs such as social work, health sciences, psychology, sociology, legal studies, and anthropology. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Natividad at 777-7285. ***(UOG)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 16, 2005

Criminal, juvenile cases on the rise

Annually, both criminal and juvenile cases are filed three times higher than 14 years ago, according to the Public Defender's Office. In a report dated May 12, 2005, PDO said that criminal case filings grew an average of 19 percent annually and juvenile cases grew an average of 22 percent per year. "Now, per year, both criminal and juvenile cases get filed at a rate three times higher than 14 years ago," said Public Defender Masood Karimipour. "This trend has been due to the population explosion in the CNMI, nearly doubling since 1984," he explained.

Japan arrivals down 2% in April

Arrivals from Japan declined by 2 percent in April, posting a decrease for the third consecutive month this year as a result of reduced airline seats to the Northern Marianas. Marianas Visitors Authority statistics showed that 27,930 Japanese tourists visited the islands last month, slightly down from the 28,472 that came in April 2004. Based on a regional breakdown, Tokai was the only region that registered a growth as compared to the same month last year. Tokai arrivals reached 3,332 last month, an 11-percent increase from the 2,999 that came in April 2004. Kanto region, which includes Tokyo prefecture, continues to be affected by the decline in airline seats, MVA said.

May 16, 2006

Fund taps reserve account for $1.5M pension checks

For the third time this year, the NMI Retirement Fund board has decided to withdraw again from its own reserve account to pay off retirees. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes said the board authorized the drawdown of $1.5 million Thursday last week to meet the pension obligation yesterday. He said the $1.5 million was also used for other items such as payment for refund and vendors amounting to about $300,000. "A huge portion of it goes to pension," said Reyes.

Hotel worker turns over $3.4K left by guest

It was in the middle of the afternoon last week when housekeeping attendant Maricel Beltran, while doing her rounds, came across a large amount of money left by a guest at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Rather than keep it for herself—as someone unscrupulous would probably do under the circumstances—Beltran did the right thing and handed the cash found at Room 809 to management. For her honesty, Beltran was saluted by her peers and was given a plaque of recognition during simple rites yesterday at the Fiesta Resort staff cafeteria. General manager Jackson Yang personally handed the plaque to a teary-eyed Beltran.

May 16, 2007

School burglarized, air-conditioner stolen

Unidentified person/s broke into Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in San Roque and stole one air-conditioner, the Department of Public Safety said yesterday. DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said it was vice principal Martin Dalsaso who noticed that the air-conditioner was missing. The unit is worth $1,500. Ogumoro said the incident was reported to DPS Monday at 7:57am. She said based on the preliminary investigation, the suspect or suspects managed to steal one of the outer units. The lines and hose of the outer air-conditioner unit were cut, Ogumoro said.

Trail, mural committees to enhance Saipan attractions

Environment advocate Beautify CNMI! has created two new committees to combat vandalism and to promote the creation of a parks system in the CNMI. The Trails and Parks Committee, headed by RC&D coordinator Ken Kramer, who has experience building trails in the Adirondacks of New York, hopes to create a system of hiking, bird watching, and nature trails connecting the various existing trails and protected areas on Saipan from Marpi in the north to Susupe Lake in the south. This idea started with community members and the Beautify CNMI! coalition will coordinate with government and private landowners to create this system of interconnected wildlife corridors and protected areas with possible funding from different sources, including USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Public Notice – Regular Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Advisory Board of Trustees of the Commonwealth healthcare corporation will hold a regular meeting on Friday, May 17, 2013 at 10:30 am at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Conference Room #3, Lower navy Hill, Saipan to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order B. Roll Call C. Call to the Audience
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
• April 19, 2013
IV. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
A. FY 2014 Budget
B. CMS Corrective Action Plan Update
C. Physician Recruitment Update
D. Tinian Health Center coverage
E. ER and Outpatient Clinic
F. Medical Staff By-Laws
G. New Organizational Structure
H. Credentialing of Medical Staff
I. MPLT Loan
J. Procurement of Equipment
K. DOI/HHS Financial Assistance Update
L. ICS Update
M. Harassment
N. NEW ACCESS POINT FOA
O. Board Portal
VII. OLD BUSINESS
A. CEO/CFO Recruitment Update
VIII. EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION
• QMS
• Governing Body
• Human Resources
• DMA position
IX. MISCELLANEOUS
A. Next Meeting
B. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 • Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 Fax: (670) 236-8756

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-3751/68 • Fax No: (670) 664-3760
Email address: www.cnmihdst@pticom.com

Head Start Policy Council
AGENDA

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
a. May 3, 2013 Special Meeting
II. Public Comments
III. Communication
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start
IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
a. SY 12-13 End of the Year Plans
b. SY 13-14 Opening of the Year Plans
c. CLASS Results (Triennial Review)
d. System-Wide Accreditation Trainings and Plans
e. OHS 2nd Annual Birth to Five Leadership Institute Report and Program Action Plan
f. Health Expo/Fair Plans
g. SY 12-13 Week Of the Young Child (WOYC) Event Results
h. Program Information Report (PIR)
2. Managers
3. Interim Finance Director
4. HPO Standing Committees
5. Center Representatives
V. Old Business
VI. New Business
VII. Miscellaneous Matters
VIII. Executive Session[1]
IX. Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ Antonio Mesngon
Chairperson

[1] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

PENDING UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Bill proposes $25 fee for each scuba dive customer

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A newly pre-filed bill seeks to impose a $25 surcharge per customer availing of scuba dive services in the CNMI but this early, some dive operators are already worried that the added fee will drive away their tourist customers.

Rep. Roman C. Benavente (IR-Saipan) pre-filed House Bill 18-72 on Tuesday, requiring all scuba dive shop operators and marine sport concessionaires to impose a $25 surcharge per scuba dive service customers that these businesses provide.

Under Benavente's bill, 45 percent of the surcharge collected will be put into a Decompression Chamber Fund, so that the government can buy a decompression chamber for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The other 35 percent of the surcharge collected will go to the Division of Environmental Quality for coral reef protection.

The remaining 20 percent will go to the general fund.

Hiro Nakamura, general manager of Global Ocean Divers Inc., said yesterday that his company acknowledges the importance of a decompression chamber but the proposed surcharge of $25 is "too much" and "will drive away our customers."

For example, a tourist that used to pay $25 or $50 for a scuba dive will now have to pay $50 or $75.

There are also dive customers that pay $1,000, for example, for a series of dives for days, and they too will have to pay an additional $25. The impact is different between these two types of customers.

Nakamura suggests that the surcharge be lowered to a minimum of $1 or $2 instead of $25.

"$25 is going to be so expensive for customers. It has to be fair. I don't think I will support the proposal as it is now," he told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

Other marine sports concessionaires said yesterday they will oppose the proposal as it is currently written.

Snorkeling and scuba diving are among the most sought-after water activities in the CNMI for tourists.

In his HB 18-72, Benavente said there is a growing concern for the well-being of living corals due to the steadily increasing popularity of scuba diving and the increasing accessibility of recreational diving.

"Poor diver etiquette, including inexperience at controlling buoyancy causing a novice diver to bump or smash into corals, improperly secured gear, photography flashes, and blasts from fin kicks, is the main cause of diver-induced damage to coral reefs," Benavente said.

The lawmaker said this calls for better protection of the CNMI's coral reefs, and funds derived from the proposed $25 surcharge will be a big help toward that effort.

Saipan local bill signed, another one vetoed

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a Saipan appropriations bill and vetoed another one from the same legislative author yesterday.

The governor signed Rep. Janet Maratita's (Ind-Saipan) House Local Bill 18-18, Draft 1 into Saipan Local Law 18-2 yesterday.

The new local law amends and re-appropriates unspecified fund balances from previous local laws so that these funds can be used to build the road heading to Ladder Beach in Precinct I.

Maratita said providing easier access to tourist sites such as Ladder Beach would bring in more visitors to these spots. Moreover, emergency vehicles would have easier access to the sites in case of emergencies.

The new local law also re-appropriates fund balances to be used for the following: up to $38,353 for the Saipan Little League's travel expenses to Taipei and Vietnam; up to $10,000 for Manta Ray Band's travel expenses to England; payment of overrun accounts on Saipan under SLL 17-14.

The remaining amount will then be used to make a partial government payment to property owner Louisa Quitugua.

The governor, meanwhile, vetoed Maratita's other measure, House Local Bill 18-7, re-appropriating fund balances from SLLs 14-7 and 17-4.

Inos said he agrees with the bill's findings and purpose but he cannot approve it for the simple fact that the business units identified are "without balances."

"It would be irresponsible for me to approve a measure without available funds. I urge the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to revisit this measure and find available resources to fund this much needed project for our students," the governor said in his veto message to Delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan).

Maratita's bill seeks to fund the repairs to bus shelters in Precinct 1. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in a financing or commercial/credit loan business. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO and Loan Management Information Systems, MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Century Finance Company, Ltd. office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, May 27, 2013.

Century Finance Company, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Commonwealth Zoning Board
(Saipan Zoning Office)
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Two (2) Zoning Officers

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the positions of Zoning Officers. These are full-time positions on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys and inspections for compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $28,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume, and police clearance. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Friday, May 24, 2013 at 4:30pm.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-032 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Perpares response letters to customers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION, SAIPAN.

POSITIONS: Six (6).

SALARY: $7.28 - $9.34 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and three years work experience. Preferred requirement: Experience in the hospitality industry, customer service, bookkeeping and/or fiscal support. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-033 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Financial Accounting Specialist or his/her designee. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service, administrative and receptionist activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION(S): Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $5. 90 - $7.25 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: High School diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) or Adult School (AS) diploma through the Adult Basic Education (ABE) program. Preferred requirement: A year's experience in the hospitality industry, customer service, bookkeeping and/or fiscal support. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisors, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Job Vacancy No. 13-034 **Opening Date:** Thursday, May 16, 2013
Closing Date: Wednesday, May 29, 2013

METER READER

DUTIES: The incumbent in this position will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or his or her designee. Responsibilities and duties include but are not limited to: Reads electric and water meters, performs service investigations. Operates government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order, operates handheld meter reading device. Prepares and submits deficiency or problem reports on meters. Assists other departments in finding customer locations and with service verifications. Locates new customers and ensures customers are hooked up and added to the system. Replace meters as required and performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER DIVISION, ***SAIPAN.***

POSITIONS: Four (4).

SALARY: $5.90 - $12.13 per hour.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., and two years work experience. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Basic mathematics. Skills in: Reading maps; Operating vehicles; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Prepare reports; Communication, interpersonal and writing skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the CUC Tinian or CUC Rota Administration Office.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

IRS picked wrong tests to ferret out abuses

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star *on Tuesday, May 14:*

The Internal Revenue Service's targeting of conservative groups for extra scrutiny so far appears to be a case of bureaucrats run amok and leadership failing to rein them in.

If that holds true, the overreach is not a redux of the 1970s, when President Richard Nixon's administration ordered the IRS to target his perceived enemies. The furor among conservative groups notwithstanding, nothing yet indicates that President Barack Obama or anyone in the White House knew what was going on in the Cincinnati IRS offices, where applications from politically oriented groups seeking tax-exempt status had been sent for review.

Employees there struggled to devise a test to flag blatantly political organizations. Unfortunately, their methods were spectacularly wrong. The employees should have known better, and IRS leaders should have handled the rogue practices much more firmly.

Lois Lerner, director of the IRS division that oversees tax-exempt groups, acknowledged Friday in advance of news exposés and an inspector general's report that workers had improperly singled out groups with "tea party" or "patriot" in their names. They also targeted groups that defined their purpose in boilerplate summaries such as "to educate the public on the Constitution" and "make America a better place to live."

For the IRS to single out groups of any political stripe is disastrous for public trust. The IRS must be independent of politics. Employees at any level who don't understand that should be fired.

It is vital to come up with an acceptable protocol for evaluating groups seeking 501(c)(4) status, meaning they may participate in politics as long as social welfare remains their primary focus. These groups have proliferated since the U.S. Supreme Court's regrettable 2010 Citizens United ruling, which allows corporations, labor unions and others to raise unlimited sums from anonymous donors and still be considered tax-exempt.

Applications for the 501(c)(4) tax status nearly doubled from 2010 to 2012, to more than 2,400, Lerner said. Much of the activity does involve conservative groups. The Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks money in elections, found that conservative nonprofits spent more than $263 million during the 2012 campaign cycle. Liberal groups spent less than $35 million.

Suspicions that some of these groups are purely political operations are legitimate. But that could apply to liberal organizations as well as conservative. The IRS needs a test to identify questionable applications. Using conservative keywords isn't it.

The targeted groups were required to fill out extensive questionnaires. But none was denied tax-exempt status.

So far, the greatest damage sustained has been to public confidence in the IRS.

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S.A.T.

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Scholastic Assessment Test (taken by high school students entering Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, et al) was put on hold in Korea the first week of May. It appears that test questions circulated around $5,000 per copy so Kim and Jin of Koreas upper echelons make a head start toward Boston and other Ivy League environs.

While teaching 6th graders at SVES, we were under pressure to have our students perform highly on standardized tests, not only to maintain the school's reputation as an academically elite institution but also to look good within PSS, pedagogically and administratively.

We understood the impetus, a lazy one. Standardized tests are a one-size-fits-all remedy at assessment. Notwithstanding PSS' understanding that multiple intelligences involve differences of learning modes, the No Child Left Behind Act mandates standard tests not only for 3 to 8 graders but in the CNMI, also PRAXIS on teachers, both administered by ETS.

Just before my ill-advised medical leave to seek remedy for spondylosis, I copied a 6-year-old SAT booklet to let students become familiar with the form of the test, as I was sure the content changed every year. I knew three other schools who had copies, and if we were going to prepare students to take the test, SVES was not going to be left behind.

There were four other sixth-grade teachers in the school so I provided each a copy, informing them of what I intended to do in my homeroom class. Fifteen minutes later, I was at the principal's office being asked why I should not be charged with "cheating." It appears that PSS, in its attempt to save funds, just recycle the same test for 10 years before getting a new batch. I immediately retrieved all the printed copies and left it at the principal's office.

(That I am a cheat is not what is at issue here. I am, so let's not quibble about that one. Our concern is standard testing.)

One of my current SAU student wants to teach at highly regarded *Liaoning Shi Yan,* an experimental private school in Shenyang that graduates many standard test passers. They score well particularly on the one that determines where they qualify for undergraduate studies.

In Korea on the suspended SAT, an initial cloud of suspicion was laid on 10 persons; their passports withheld, advised not to travel. It appears that like the Audis and Mercedes-Benzes in the parking lot in Shenyang, the newfound wealth of test administrators in Korea were not necessarily a consequence of high pay or rich inheritance but often, of well-placed but high-priced access to information on test materials.

The highest number of foreign students allowed undergraduate study in the United States comes from China, India, and South Korea. South Korea is virtually a 51st State of the Union, exempt from getting entry visas to enter the country, but their students still have to take the SAT to get placement in highly regarded institutions of learning. Aye, there's the rub!

It does not have to be in the dark of night when envelopes are passed. At considerable expense, privately tutored students from the three countries predominate the entrance qualifiers, and I understand, the cost of an Audi or a Benz does not fit readily on a teacher's salary. Well-oiled parents do not hesitate to spill the grease.

Juniors and seniors at my university sweat out the College English Test band4 to get a bachelor's degree and band6 to get to graduate school. English majors take the Test for English Majors band4 in their second year, and if they fail, take a band8 in their senior year. Those who fail are disqualified from graduating. Many sleepless nights are offered at the altar of standardized tests!

PSS had me shuffling in a culture of testing. I was not too compliant. I shot for education that is focused on learning. "Not memorizing what I say to pass a test but being conscious of what you learn shall be paramount in your minds," I used to tell students. That has not changed. The SAU system, however, does not improve on PSS.

Alternative education among the differently-abled (aka "handicapped") has since come to mean taking the student seriously as an individual. I take individual photos of my students (all 240 of them!) on the first day of class as they fill out their individual profiles, so that I get names and faces together. I call them by their Chinese names in class rather than a temporary English name they are encouraged to adopt. I have a cheat sheet of photos and names in all my classes.

With the four tones in the Chinese language, there is no way I can pronounce the names properly. It is just as well. My fumbling pronunciation gives the students permission not to worry too much of their pronunciation of English words.

Enabling them the courage to speak is after all the only task I have. Treating them as individuals gets that done.

BTW, ETS (think Carnegie at Princeton) of the S.A.T. and PRAXIS fame in the CNMI actually lags behind in market share to the big four guns of educational assessment tests: Harcourt, McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin, and Pearson. Does a lowly paid teacher stand a chance against Wall Street promoted standard tests? Thank heaven, on learning, yes!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Inekuñgog publiku

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

I lehislatura obligasioña areglon lai gi linahyan. Poresu na mampos diskuidau yangin ha choneg maseha haf' na priniponen lai sin kabales na inekuñgog publiku yan inestudia antes de u pega papa' haf' disisioña.

Pot ihemplo, i asunton scholarship ma-apprueba sin inekuñgog publiku. Maseha marekommenda kontra na sentiment, mana' falofan i disision sin uma'atan haf' i puntu siha. Kada estudiante nia mana'e scholarship ennau i $1,800 kada unu. Este na kantida ha kukubre 63 pot sientu gi gaston eskuela gi sakan. 'An sanhiyoñg 'nai magasta, ennau i 13 pot sientu kinubre gi enteru gaston apas eskuela.

Este mismu na puntu umatisa presisu na inekuñgog pot 'nos kuantos attikulu: 1). Memegaiña gi man-magradua na famaguonta siempre u fan hanau guatu NMC. 2). Mas libianu para siha sa' mangaige guine ya ti manpinalo'pu' apas atkilon guma yan otru siha.

Este yan otru siha mansignifikau na asuntu mina' debi u guaha mas inadahe gi haf' ma-appruereba ni lehislatura. Tat disiente manhassu ti u pinederika nu aksion lehislatura.

Yangin para in' fa' eskusu i taya' pattisipasion publiku, na ti ginen este na diskuidu na mafañagu diniskontentun sumaunau gi inekuñgog publiku?

Pot ihemplo: Pot dos besis i publiku ha bota gi hilu kinentra casino gambling guine. Lau sige ha' hamyu in' bira tatte i asuntu sin respetu gi sentimenton i tautau siha. Para ñgai'an 'nai siña in' ekuñgog kabales haf' i publiku mansinañgañgane hamyu?

Yangin lagse' i industrian casino, haf' na mampos chafleg kinalamteña giya Luta yan Tinian? Haf' na fuetsau in' cheneg ilun miyu halom gi papa' unai pot no in'lie'e sessu i sentimentun publiku? Kuantu gi tautau Saipan man-miyinariu ni siña yumute' keblen niha gi huegon chansa? Na ti 9,500 na tautau-ta mangaige gi programan food stamps? Kuantu gumagana kantida gi offisiun niha para u gasta gi dispetdisiu?

Taigue gi casino i chachalan ma-adelantan industrian praibet. Gaige ennau solu gi haf' in' petsige gi areglon lai siha ni pumupunu' hinalom inbette (investment) deste tax yan otru siha diskalentau na areglu. Fan egaga' ya in' chegue che'chu' miyu. Muñga man-hinalañg sa' oppan kinimiten miyu para in' aregla i mampos miserable na linala' tautau-ta siha.

Maseha lamegai besis 'nai mapla' i reda gi sagaña, maila' tana' guaha antau na inadiñgan yan kooperasion sa' i sahyan 'sino karetón inyo-ta todus. Si JR.

Espehos adelantu

Gaige gi ti chagu siha estados ni tumulaika areglon niha pot para u soyu mas inenbette (investment) 'sino fiñkas moneda yan fakteria halom gi lugat niha.

I sankattan na Dakota gaige giya hululu'. Dañkulu na fakterian pot trastes komputa (computer) siha man-maproduduse guihe na estado. Ya tulaika lamayot patte gi sisteman tax ya hana' tinatiye ennau ni mana' suhan man-disareglau siha na lai ni chumochoma' hinalom man-dañkulu siha na kometsiante.

Gaige gi ti chagu' tatte iya Texas. Ha adelanta sistemaña gax yan areglu siha pot dies años na tiempu. Mientras sige man-malagu kometsiante siha ginen California, iya Texas chumachahlau i manhuyuñg siha na bisnis. Mas ke 250 mit na bisnis ha kone' halom sin ditension.

Gi oriya, iya Japon lokue' sige ha adelanta todu aregloña pot kinalamten industriaña siha para u lahatsa kontribusion rinikohen tax gi kahaña. Este na kinalamten siha mauleg iya Marianas u estudiaye para u ta'lon chumoneg kinalamten inenbette guine taimanu i ochenta siha na sakan. Si areglu gi lai siha pot ekonomia, guse'ña man-hanau halom hit gi guafen botkan ni sige ha' hana' tostus appenas na moneda siha guine.

Biba man-nana siha

Maseha atrasau, malago-yu' sumaunau matufoñg gi inabiban mannana siha. Sin nanan guma', haf' mohon futtunata? Dañkulu pinasensiaña ennau na palao'an i fitme tumachu gi fihon tata kumu halige yan pisun familia.

Halom pagyu, linau yan katma gaige si nana gi fihonta yan sumen anchu na plaset pinasensia. Maseha haf' pinadesita, gaige ha' apagaña ni ta usa kumu fanapu'an mientras ha lalasa ha'ita. Todu pot todu, pot asaguaña yan famaguoña. Ti apasiyon i gineftau korasoña gi halom todu mattirun yan mattiempun finaposta.

Maseha esta yayas, siempre ha rikonose i tropa kau todu manfelis antes de u huchom mataña. Dispues, guiya mofo'na 'an chatagmag pot para una' masa i amotsan familia. Diariu ha chogue che'chu' nana. Magahet na mampos ha affekta hit dispues de maliñgu gi santatte lau sabe dios korasoña 'nai mattu i uttimu na suspiros antes de u hanau. Si Yuus Ma'ase' nana pot todu i ti apasiyon na konkariñu siha.

IRS unites nation with shoddy treatment of tea party groups

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Robin Abcarian is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send her email at robin.abcarian@latimes.com.*

Finally, a small cadre of busybody bureaucrats has discovered a way to bring this divided country together.

Thank you, IRS, for pulling off what no politician has been able to do.

Mortal political enemies on both sides of the aisle agree: The IRS badly misstepped when it singled out for scrutiny groups with the words "tea party" and "patriots" in their names who had applied for tax-exempt status. That is a Nixon-worthy no-no.

Regardless of whether this practice simply represented a shortcut in the agency's larger effort to evaluate the flood of applications for tax-exempt status in 2010 and 2011, as the agency maintains, it's a ham-fisted way of doing business.

President Obama weighed in on the controversy Monday, calling the allegations "outrageous." He vowed to hold whoever is responsible accountable.

"I don't care whether you're a Democrat, independent or a Republican," the president said at his press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron. "At some point, there are going to be Republican administrations. At some point, there are going to be Democratic ones. Either way, you don't want the IRS ever being perceived to be biased and anything less than neutral in terms of how they operate."

Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots, one of the largest tea party groups in the country, told Fox News that the IRS had asked "very intrusive questions," and demanded Facebook posts, comments, plus lists of donors. "Donations are supposed to be confidential," she said.

"It's taken a lot of time and cost a lot of money," Martin said. "I understand when you are dealing with IRS, and you're making application for tax-exempt status, you've got to make sure you are following all the rules and the laws."

And here, I should pause for a big, giant irony alert.

The bigger issue at stake is probably going to be obscured by justifiably huffy allegations of IRS abuse. The real issue is the way political groups are getting away with undeserving tax-exempt status in the first place. Those groups are being subsidized by you, the taxpayer, to inappropriately engage in political campaigning.

How do they do that? By saying one thing and doing another.

Groups with the 501(c)(4) tax code designation are supposed to be engaged primarily in "social welfare" work. This is laughable, as anyone who has followed politics in the last couple of years can tell you.

The investigative journalism shop ProPublica calls the groups, used by conservatives and liberals alike, the "darkest corner of American political fund-raising." Working on behalf of Republicans and Democrats, ProPublica found, the groups are "pouring much of their resources, directly or indirectly, into political races at the local, state and federal level."

On Friday, the IRS official in charge of nonprofit designations, Lois Lerner, apologized for singling out tea party and patriot groups. "That was wrong, that was absolutely incorrect, insensitive and it was inappropriate," Lerner said during a conference call. "That's not how we go about selecting cases for further review."

That apology did not appease Martin, who nevertheless refused to bite the bait when Fox News host Gretchen Carlson prompted, "Did this come from the top?"

"I don't know whether it came from the top or not," Martin said. "What I know is there is no way a couple of low-level employees out of Cincinnati, Ohio … had this much influence that could affect so many groups across the country—literally it was coast to coast."

Martin's instincts appear to be correct. On Monday, the Washington Post reported that IRS officials in Washington and two California offices were also involved in the "targeting of conservative groups seeking tax-exempt status."

Later this week, when the inspector general releases a report detailing what happened, the nation should have a better idea of whether the targeting was for done for reasons of politics or bureaucratic expediency.

When all is said and done, it's kind of hard to feel too sorry for some of these groups. After all, being able to accuse the IRS of inappropriately targeting your donation-dependent organization might be the best way ever to raise money. And you're going to need the money. You know—for all that "social welfare" you're planning in the 2014 election cycle.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Healthy meals

I would like to respond to the article "School meals turning off students" (*Saipan Tribune,* May 14, 2013). The USDA generously grants the CNMI PSS a great deal of money to feed our children, and in return, they ask that we serve menus that meet very specific nutrition requirements. The new menu requirements were the result of years of scientific research aimed at reducing the risks of chronic disease in the next generation. Three of the biggest challenges the CNMI faced were the new requirements to serve legumes (dry beans, lentils), red/orange vegetables every week, and whole grains. These menu specifications have been a challenge for school districts nationwide, as they were first implemented at the beginning of this school year. Most schools, including Guam and Hawaii, have adopted more Mexican, Cajun, and Southwestern foods in order to get the legumes. Our largely Asian/Micronesian palate does not eat a lot of legumes, and those that are Asian in tradition (such as Edamame) were proposed, but that menu item was rejected by vendors. In trying to achieve the level of whole grains necessary, it was determined that brown rice was more culturally appropriate than other options, such as whole grain corn tortillas, whole grain pasta/noodles, and whole grain breads. In the CNMI, we also face the challenge of food availability. Many items must be special ordered months ahead of time as they are not grown or manufactured in CNMI in the quantity that school meals need.

In the absence of a dietitian, I would suggest that CNMI PSS not just identify the problem but seek solutions. As the vendors are very in touch with the food preferences of the students, and well informed about the new menu requirements, I would suggest that the CNMI PSS draw on the culinary skill of our talented Asian/island-influenced school chefs to create or identify recipes that *meet* these new guidelines, especially the legume requirement, the whole grain requirement, and the specific colored vegetable requirements that they feel CNMI students would enjoy. The USDA has also collected recipes that were "student-approved" in this resource, http://www.teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/r4hk_schools.html. Other states have taken on the challenge, and created chef-designed student-tested menus (see Idaho's at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/chef/). CNMI students and parents could be helpful in this effort as well, as they can suggest the healthy and economical legume and vegetable-dense recipes that are served in their homes.

I regret that an urgent family crisis took me away from the CNMI suddenly and permanently before I was able to do follow up on the likes and dislikes of the new menus. I hope, for the future of the health of the CNMI, that CNMI PSS can find ways to implement this healthier menu that our students will enjoy. I do not want the children of the CNMI to suffer with diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and kidney failure to the extent that our current generations are suffering. Establishing healthy eating habits in childhood can prevent a lot of suffering later.

Dianne Esplin, RD, LD, CLC
Meridian, Idaho

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

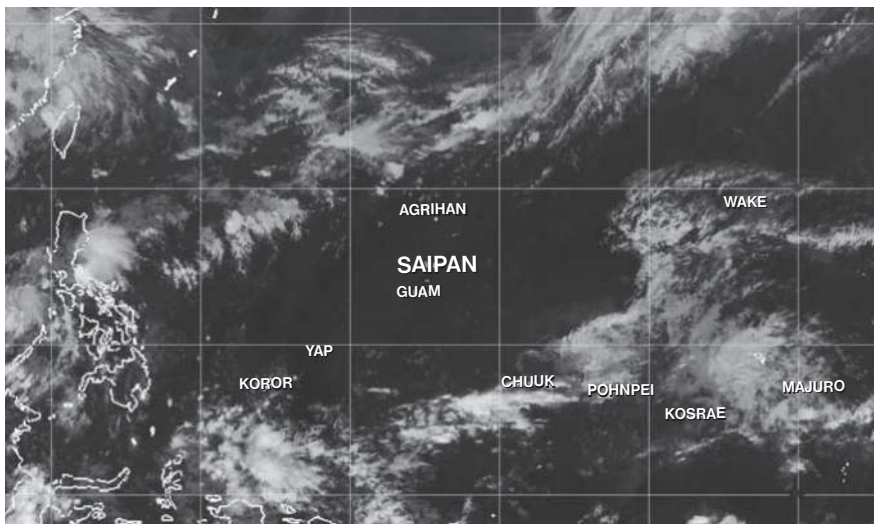
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼81
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Beijing	Cloudy	▲81	▼58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲82	▼78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲59	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90	▼82
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼48
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼71
New York	Showers	▲67	▼57
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼47
Pusan	Windy	▲67	▼56
Rome	Rain	▲72	▼62
Salem	Showers	▲64	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲63	▼55
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼52
Tokyo	Showers	▲76	▼58
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau or between the equator and 5N from 130E to 140E. A surface trough of low pressure extends from 1N143E to 5N145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with this feature can be found southeast of Yap between the equator and 6N from 140E to 150E. An upper-level low is centered north of Pohnpei near 16N158E. This upper-level low combined with trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae states as well as over sections of the Marshall Islands between 4N and 10N from 150E to 172E. Another area of trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Tarawa or between 2N and 6N from 172E to 180. A weak frontal system extends from 25N152E to 22N143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and up to 300 miles north of the boundary. A surface trough stretched from 16N130E to 20N136 to 23N140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located within 120 miles of the trough.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:55 PM	Today	High Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:33 AM	11:28 PM
Friday	11:22 AM	
Saturday	12:12 PM	12:08 AM
Sunday	1:02 PM	12:49 AM
Monday	1:53 PM	1:29 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 6, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	2:55am	6:35am	1
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:55am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:55am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Google poised to show off latest devices, services

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google is expected to use its annual software developers' conference to showcase the latest mobile devices running on its Android software, while also unveiling other features in its evolving product line-up.

The gathering, scheduled to begin Wednesday morning in San Francisco, provides Google Inc. with an opportunity to flex its technological muscle in front of a sold-out audience of engineers and entrepreneurs who develop applications and other features that can make smartphones and tablets more appealing.

Reporters from around the world also will be on hand, giving Google a chance to generate more hoopla about its latest innovations.

AP

This June 27, 2012 file photo shows an Android display at the Google I/O conference in San Francisco.

The company, which is based in Mountain View, Calif., made a big splash at last year's conference by staging an elaborate production to highlight the potential of Google Glass—an Internet-connected device and camera that can be worn on a person's face like a pair of spectacles. Google co-founder Sergey Brin wowed the crowd last year by taking to the stage and then engaging in a live video chat with a group of skydivers who were in a dirigible hovering above the convention. When they jumped, the skydivers' descent to the rooftop was shown live through the Google Glass camera.

Some of the developers in attendance last year paid $1,500 apiece for a Google Glass prototype that was delivered to them last month.

Google hasn't spelled out what its executives will discuss during this year's opening keynote, which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. PT and last for nearly three hours. Given that Google Glass is now being tested by the developers who bought the "Explorer" edition, the device might not be one of the featured attractions.

It's a safe bet the spotlight at some point Wednesday will shine on Android, which already has been activated on more than 750 million devices around the world. Google gives the mobile operating system away, making it easier for gadget makers to sell their devices at prices below Apple Inc.'s iPhone and iPad.

Android has helped Google make more money because its search engine and other services, including maps, are usually built into the devices that rely on the software. That tie-in drives more visitors to Google, giving the company more opportunities to sell the advertising that generates most of its revenue.

Stock market rises back into record territory

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock market marched back into record territory Tuesday as investors seized on the latest encouraging news about the economy. This time, it was a report on the health of small businesses.

Small business owners were slightly more optimistic in April, according to a survey released by the National Federation of Independent Business before the stock market opened. That helped push the Russell 2000, an index of small-company stocks, up 1.3 percent, ahead of other major indexes.

"Small businesses are in many ways the backbone of the economy ... to see that index move up was a positive surprise," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist for Prudential Financial. "Overall, the market wants to move higher and it's hard to fight that."

The Russell index is 16.1 percent higher since the start of the year, and is up more than the Standard & Poor's 500 index, which includes larger, global companies. Small stocks are doing well partly because they are more focused on the U.S., which is recovering, and don't get as much revenue from recession-plagued Europe as larger companies do.

The advance in small-company stocks is another sign of how optimistic investors have become. Smaller stocks are more risky than large ones, but also offer investors the prospect of greater returns in a rising market.

Another closely watched stock market indicator has also been on a tear: transportation stocks. The Dow Jones transportation average rose 1.9 percent Tuesday and is up 21.8 percent this year, far more than other major indexes. Investors often see these stocks as an indicator of where the economy is headed. When companies make and ship more goods, the thinking goes, truckers, airlines and railways do more business.

The market rose from the opening of trading and climbed steadily throughout the day.

US boom transforming global oil trade

NEW YORK (AP)—The surge in oil production in the U.S. and Canada and shrinking oil consumption in the developed world is transforming the global oil market.

The threat of chronic oil shortages is all but gone, U.S. dependence on Middle Eastern oil will continue to dwindle, and oil will increasingly flow to the developing economies of Asia, according to a five-year outlook published Tuesday by the International Energy Agency.

The changes will have "significant consequences for the global economy and oil security," the IEA says.

The report paints a picture of a world with plenty of oil to meet modestly growing demand. Where the oil is coming from, and where it is going, is changing dramatically, according to the IEA, an energy security and research organization based in Paris that serves 28 oil-importing countries, including the U.S.

The report does not address oil prices directly, but analysts do not expect the changing oil market dynamics to lead to sharply lower oil or gasoline prices. The abundance of oil does, however, greatly reduce the risk of sustained price surges that curtail economic growth.

The chief impetus for the changing world oil picture is the increase in production in the U.S. The U.S. created the world oil market more than a century ago and is the world's biggest consumer, but domestic production was thought to be in permanent decline. Then drillers, inspired by high prices and armed with improving technology, learned how to produce oil from previously inaccessible rock under several U.S. states.

U.S. production reached 7.4 million barrels per day early this month, 48 percent higher than the average production in 2008 and the highest it's been since February of 1992. The IEA expects U.S. production to reach 9.1 million barrels per day by 2018. The U.S. last produced that much oil in 1972.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.*

When cell phones become a problem in the workplace

Question: The issue of employee cell phones is driving me crazy. I manage a small medical clinic with 15 staff members who interact with patients all day. Initially, I trusted them to use good judgment about personal calls, but that didn't work. Next, I asked them not to carry cell phones unless they were expecting an important call. Suddenly, every call became "important." Because these constant interruptions are unacceptable in a medical facility, I recently announced that cell phones must be kept in employees' lockers except during breaks and lunch. Now I'm getting so many complaints that I'm tempted to ban the phones altogether.

Answer: Actually, phone calls are probably just the tip of this iceberg. Since most people now have smartphones, employees are undoubtedly being distracted by texts, instant messages and various social networking sites as well. While this multitasking may pose no problem in some work settings, in others it can be dangerous or even deadly. For that reason, cell phone policies should be tailored to the needs of each specific workplace. In your case, requiring medical staffers to stash their phones during office hours is a perfectly sensible requirement. However, banning them from the building would not be reasonable, since that would cut people off from their families.

In case of emergency, you do need to ensure that these phone-deprived folks can be easily reached, so provide a clinic number that will always be answered by an actual person. No frightened child or distraught parent should ever have to deal with a lengthy phone menu ending in a voicemail message.

■■■

Q: I was recently fired from my job as a food server after a customer complained. This woman said that I was rude and impolite, but I was actually trying to make a joke that had seemed to amuse other customers. However, the owner didn't see it that way, so he let me go. Now I'm not sure how to explain this situation when I apply for other jobs. I want to be honest, but I don't believe I did anything wrong. My immediate supervisor has said he thinks the world of me and will give me a good reference.

A: While you are under no obligation to volunteer negative information, any routine background check will quickly uncover the terms of your departure. So if you still have a civil relationship with the owner, find out whether he would be willing to call this a resignation. If not, then you should just give interviewers a simple explanation.

For example: "In my previous position, there was a misunderstanding with the owner about a comment I made to a guest. I was trying to be funny, but I have now learned that joking with customers is not a good idea. However, my immediate supervisor will be glad to talk with you about the quality of my work."

Under these circumstances, your supervisor's recommendation may be the golden ticket that ultimately gets you hired. Once you land that new job, you should at least send him a thank-you card.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,215.25	1,376.51	3,462.61
123.57	3.73	23.82
+0.82%	+0.27%	+0.69%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

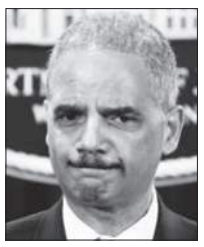
Australian Dollar	1.0107	Hong Kong Dollar	7.762	Philippine Peso	41.1341
British Pound	0.6566	Indian Rupee	54.7105	Singapore Dollar	1.2434
Canadian Dollar	1.0185	Indonesian Rupiah	9739.97	South Korean Won	1114.4
Chinese Yuan	6.1464	Japanese Yen	102.2302	Swiss Franc	0.9655
Euro	0.7733	Malaysian Ringgit	2.9988	Taiwan Dollar	29.823
		New Zealand Dollar	1.217	Thailand Baht	29.708

Nation

Justice investigating IRS targeting of tea party

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department is investigating the Internal Revenue Service for targeting tea party groups for extra scrutiny when they applied for tax exempt status, Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday, widening a probe that includes investigations by three committees in Congress.

Ineffective management at the IRS allowed agents to improperly target tea party groups for more than 18 months, concluded one investigation, by the Treasury inspector general for tax administration. The inspector general's report, released Tuesday, lays much of the blame on IRS supervisors in Washington who oversaw a group of specialists in Cincinnati who screened applications for tax exempt status.



Holder

The report does not indicate that Washington initiated the targeting of conservative groups. But it does say a top supervisor in Washington did not adequately supervise agents in the field even after she learned the agents were acting improperly.

"The report's findings are intolerable and inexcusable," President Barack Obama said in a statement. "The federal government must conduct itself in a way that's worthy of the public's trust, and that's especially true for the IRS. The IRS must apply the law in a fair and impartial way, and its employees must act with utmost integrity. This report shows that some of its employees failed that test."

Holder said he ordered the FBI to investigate Friday—the day the IRS publicly acknowledged that it had singled out conservative groups.

"Those (actions) were, I think, as everyone can agree, if not criminal, they were certainly outrageous and unacceptable," Holder said. "But we are examining the facts to see if there were criminal violations."

Three congressional committees already are investigating the IRS for singling out tea party and other conservative groups during the 2010 congressional elections and the 2012 presidential election. But Holder's announcement takes the matter to another level, if investigators are able to prove that laws were broken.

Holder said he wasn't sure which laws may have been broken.

The agency started targeting groups with "Tea Party," ``Patriots" or "9/12 Project" in their applications for tax exempt status in March 2010, the inspector general's report said. By August 2010, it was part of the written criteria used to flag groups for additional scrutiny.

Lois Lerner, who heads the IRS division that oversees tax exempt organizations, had been briefed on the matter in June 2011. She ordered the initial tea party criteria to be scrapped but it later evolved to include groups that promoted the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

TRIO OF TROUBLES AP

President Barack Obama waves upon his arrival aboard Air Force One at JFK International Airport in New York, Monday, May 13, 2013. Obama seemed to lose control of his second-term agenda even before he was sworn in, when a school massacre led him to lift gun control to the fore. Now, as he tries to pivot from a stinging defeat on that issue and push forward on others, the president finds himself rocked by multiple controversies that are demoralizing his allies, emboldening his political foes and posing huge distractions for all. It's unclear how long he will be dogged by inquiries into last year's deadly attack in Libya, the IRS targeting of tea party groups and now the seizure of Associated Press phone records in a leak investigation. But if nothing else, these episodes give new confidence and swagger to Republicans who were discouraged by Obama's re-election and their inability to block tax hikes as part of the Jan. 1 "fiscal cliff" deal.

Lawyer: Tsarnaev's widow to cooperate

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A new criminal defense lawyer for the widow of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev says his client will continue to cooperate with investigators but says he plans to keep quiet about the details of her case publicly because that could hurt the investigation.

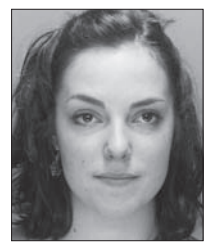
New York lawyer Joshua Dratel, who has represented several terrorism suspects, joined Katherine Russell's legal team last week. He joins two Rhode Island-based lawyers who typically focus on civil cases.

Russell hasn't been charged with any wrongdoing, but she is under intense scrutiny by the FBI as it investigates the deadly April 15 bombing, which killed three people and injured more than 260. Authorities say the attack was carried out by her husband and his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

Dratel told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he joined Russell's legal team because Russell needed someone who could navigate the criminal justice system and to protect her interests. He said she had spoken with investigators and planned to keep cooperating.

"I don't see that changing in the foreseeable future," he said. "There's no inconsistency between that and her interests at this point."

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, is in a prison hospital facing charges that could bring the death penalty. Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, died April 19 after a shootout with police.



Russell

Russell, 24, had been living in Cambridge, Mass., with her husband and 2-year-old daughter, but has been staying with her parents in North Kingstown, R.I., since the day her husband was killed. She has reverted to using her maiden name, switching from her married name of Tsarnaeva.

Among the questions about Russell is what she knew or saw in the weeks leading up to the bombing, and in the days after it. Two U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have told the AP that Dzhokhar told investigators the bombs were assembled in the small apartment Russell shared with her husband. One of her Rhode Island lawyers has previously said she was working long hours and was frequently away from the apartment.

Dratel would not discuss details of Russell's life or relationship with her husband, and would not be specific when asked about her contact with federal investigators, such as when she had spoken with them. He said in his experience, investigators do not want people speaking to the media and publicizing what they are focusing on.

Soldier in sexual assault office accused of abuse

WASHINGTON (AP)—A soldier assigned to coordinate a sexual assault prevention program in Texas is under investigation for "abusive sexual contact" and other alleged misconduct and has been suspended from his duties, the Army announced Tuesday.

Just last week an Air Force officer who headed a sexual assault prevention office was himself arrested on charges of groping a woman in a parking lot.

The Army said a sergeant first class, whose name was not released, is accused of pandering, abusive sexual contact, assault and maltreatment of subordinates. He is being investigated by the Army Criminal Investigation Command. No charges have been filed.

He had been assigned as an equal opportunity adviser and coordinator of a sexual harassment-assault prevention program at the Army's 3rd Corps headquarters at Fort Hood, Texas, when the allegation arose, the Army said.

"To protect the integrity of the investigative process and the rights of all persons involved, no more information will be released at this time," an Army statement said.

The back-to-back Army and Air Force cases highlight a problem that is drawing increased scrutiny in Congress and expressions of frustration from top Pentagon leaders. Pentagon press secretary George Little said after Tuesday's announcement that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is angry and disappointed at "these troubling allegations and the breakdown in discipline and standards they imply."

Little said Hagel met with Army Secretary John McHugh earlier Tuesday and ordered him to "fully investigate this matter rapidly, to discover the extent of these allegations and to ensure that all of those who might be involved are dealt with appropriately."

Convicted Pa. abortion doctor gets life in prison

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—An abortion doctor convicted of killing three babies born alive at his rogue clinic dodged a possible death sentence on Tuesday in a hasty post-verdict deal with prosecutors.

Dr. Kermit Gosnell waived his right to appeal in exchange for a sentence of life without parole. Gosnell, 72, was convicted Monday of first-degree murder in a case that became a flashpoint in the nation's abortion debate.

Former clinic employees testified that Gosnell routinely performed illegal abortions past Pennsylvania's 24-week limit, that he delivered babies who were still moving, whimpering or breathing, and that he and his assistants dispatched the newborns by "snipping" their spines, as he referred to it.

Gosnell

Prosecutors had been seeking the death penalty because Gosnell killed more than one person and his victims were especially vulnerable given their age. But Gosnell's own advanced age had made it unlikely he would ever be executed before his appeals ran out.

Gosnell's lawyer, Jack McMahon, said his client accepts the verdict and isn't sorry he went to trial. He said Gosnell gave up a somewhat better deal early on but wanted to air the issues in court and is satisfied that he did so.

"He wanted this case aired out in a courtroom and it got aired out in a courtroom in a fair way. And now he's accepting what will happen. He's an intelligent guy," said McMahon, who said Gosnell would now plead to federal drug charges that are still pending.

The sentencing deal, reached after hours of terse negotiations, spares Gosnell's family the task of pleading for his life in court, McMahon said. Gosnell has six children, the youngest of them a teenager born to his third wife, who has also pleaded guilty in the case. "He's a proud man. To bring his young family into court was something he did not want to do," McMahon said.

Gosnell was instead sentenced Tuesday to two life sentences for two of the infant deaths. He faces a mandatory third life term Wednesday in the third death, when he will also be formally sentenced in the overdose death of a patient and hundreds of lesser charges.

Asia

Boats carrying fleeing Rohingya minority capsize

SITTWE, Myanmar (AP)—An overcrowded boat capsized while trying to escape a cyclone bearing down on Myanmar, tossing dozens of members of the displaced Rohingya minority group into the sea. Eight bodies were found and more than 50 people were missing and feared dead, the United Nations said.

More than 100 people were aboard the boat when it set sail late Monday night, but only 42 had been rescued, James Munn, an official with the U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Tuesday. They are among about 140,000 people—mostly Rohingya Muslims—who fled their homes and sought refuge in camps following two outbreaks of Buddhist-Rohingya violence last year.

The U.N. said tens of thousands of Rohingya, living in flimsy tents and makeshift shelters in Myanmar's Rakhine state, were endangered by the storm.

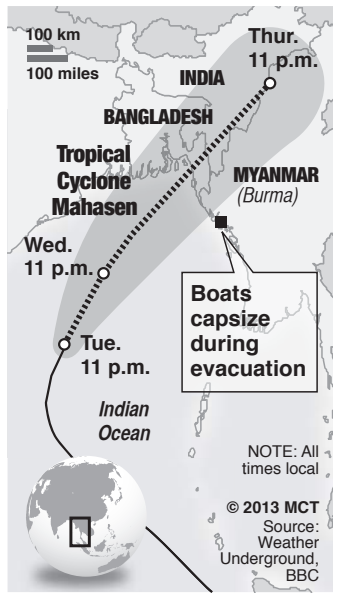
AP

Internally displaced Rohingya boys shiver in rain in a makeshift camp for Rohingya people in Sittwe, northwestern Rakhine State, Myanmar, ahead of the arrival of Cyclone Mahasen, Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Ashok Nigam, the United Nations' humanitarian coordinator in Myanmar, said nearly 70,000 of the displaced should be moved to higher ground. They are in low-lying areas along the coast that are highly susceptible to tidal surges and flooding. It was raining at the camps on Tuesday.

Cyclone Mahasen is expected to make landfall early Friday. The storm was heading toward Chittagong, Bangladesh, but could shift east and deliver a more direct hit on Rakhine state, according to Myanmar's Meteorology Department. Heavy rains and strong winds are expected to batter Rakhine.

Myanmar state television reported Monday that 5,158 people had been relocated from low-lying camps in the Rakhine state capital Sittwe to safer shelters, and an unspecified number from other areas. The U.N. said the government's plan had been to evacuate 38,000 internally displaced people on Monday and Tuesday.



Ex-Philippine president elected mayor of Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former President Joseph Estrada was declared the winner of Manila's mayoral election on Tuesday, his first ballot victory since his ouster in a 2001 anti-corruption revolt and a possible prelude to a return to higher office.

Estrada's was among a host of familiar names, including former first lady Imelda Marcos, to score wins in Monday's congressional and local elections. About half the votes have been counted so far, and if they accurately reflect the whole, President Benigno Aquino III will have enough congressional support to enact his policies in his last three years in office.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said Aquino has described the election as a referendum on his administration.

"It seems clear that our countrymen have spoken overwhelmingly to confirm and expand the mandate for reform and change that they first granted in 2010 to President Aquino," Lacierda said.

Estrada

Estrada is a leader of the opposition coalition, but Lacierda said he and Aquino remain "good friends" and will be able to work together.

Estrada, 76, capitalized on his movie-star popularity, particularly among the poor, and promised to reverse urban decay of the historic capital along Manila Bay. Manila was once a lively tourist spot, but the streets have become neglected and many residents complain of crime.

"I have no other desire in the final years of my life than to offer my experience in public service, to give everything I can to uplift the poor," Estrada told supporters after he was proclaimed the winner at a stadium.

"Manila has been left behind by its neighbors. We will revive the vigor of Manila that we can be proud of," he said.

Estrada, popularly known as Erap, had served for nearly 20 years as mayor of nearby San Juan city, senator and vice president. After his presidential term was cut short by the 2001 revolt, he was convicted of corruption, then pardoned.

Estrada, who finished second in the 2010 presidential election, could use his new position as a springboard for another shot at the presidency.

He defeated incumbent Mayor Alfredo Lim, an 83-year-old former Manila police chief who once served in Estrada's Cabinet as interior secretary. Under Lim's watch, eight Hong Kong tourists were killed by a hostage-taker in 2010 in a bungled police rescue. An investigation found him liable and negligent.

Bangladesh honors the dead from building collapse

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Thousands of mourners gathered Tuesday at the wreckage of a Bangladeshi garment factory building to offer prayers for the souls of the 1,127 people who died in the structure's collapse last month, the worst tragedy in the history of the global garment industry.

The Islamic prayer service was held a day after the army ended a nearly three-week, painstaking search for bodies among the rubble and turned control of the site over to the civilian government for cleanup.

Recovery workers got a shocking boost Friday when they pulled a 19-year-old seamstress alive from the wreckage. But most of their work entailed removing corpses that were so badly decomposed from the heat they could only be identified if their cellphones or work IDs were found with them. The last body was found Sunday night.

Soldiers in camouflage, police and firefighters in uniform stood solemnly in neat rows near relatives of the dead. Many of the rescue workers had pained expressions on their faces. Tears rolled down the cheeks of one soldier.

The mourners raised their cupped hands in prayer and asked for the salvation of those who lost their lives when the Rana Plaza building came crashing down on April 24. They also appealed for divine blessings for the injured still in the hospital.

Maj. Gen. Chowdhury Hasan Suhrawardy, the military commander who had been supervising the site, thanked all those involved in the work. He said the army has prepared a list of 1,000 survivors that it would give to the government with the recommendation they be provided jobs on a priority basis.

The tragedy came months after a fire at another Bangladesh garment factory killed 112 workers.

Taiwan rejects Manila apology for fisherman death

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan slammed Manila's response to the shooting death of a Taiwanese fisherman as informal and insincere, and said Wednesday it is recalling its representative and will discourage travel to the Philippines.

Premier Jiang Yi-huah said the government was displeased with the apology delivered by the Philippine representative office in Taipei. Taiwan will not accept anything short of a Philippine government apology, he said.

"The shooting was conducted by one of its civil servants, and its government could not evade the responsibility," he said, adding that Taiwan wants to be informed about whether the culprit will be charged, jailed or dismissed.

Philippine coast guard personnel opened fire on a Taiwanese fishing vessel in the disputed Bashi Strait last Thursday, killing the fisherman.

Philippine officials previously said the shooting was done in self-defense because the Taiwanese vessel was about to ram a Philippine ship. They have declined to comment further.

The strait is between Taiwan and the northern Philippines. China has sought to show common cause with Taiwan on the issue because it claims the democratically run island, from which it split amid civil war in 1949, is part of its territory.

Jiang said the navy and coast guard will stage an exercise in the area to show Taiwan's naval strength. He said a hiring freeze of Philippine workers in Taiwan will also take effect.

Approximately 87,000 Filipinos are employed on the island, many in the manufacturing sector, where their English-language skills are seen as a boon to the island's export-oriented high-tech industries.

Pakistan vote count shows big Sharif win

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The vote count from last weekend's nationwide elections in Pakistan on Tuesday indicates a big win for former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party.

Figures released by the country's election commission, based on 254 of the 269 races where the counting has been completed, show Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N party will likely get a majority in the national assembly, setting him up to be prime minister for the third time.

As the new premier, the 63-year-old Sharif, a devout Muslim and a populist, is expected to supplant President Asif Ali Zardari as the international face of a nuclear power whose increasing instability and Islamic militant havens are a global concern, especially at a time when the West is looking to end the war in neighboring Afghanistan.

Sharif's party so far has won 123 of the 254 directly elected national assembly seats, the commission spokesman Khursheed Alam said. The commission is still compiling results for 15 seats, and Alam said it hopes the remaining results will be released by Tuesday evening.

Earlier reports from the election commission on Tuesday wrongly indicated that the count was over.

The White House said President Barack Obama had spoken with Sharif by telephone to congratulate him on his party's success. White House spokesman Jay Carney called the election and peaceful transfer of power a "significant milestone" in Pakistan's progress toward a more democratic political system.

The vote marked the first time a civilian government completed its full five-year term and transferred power in democratic elections.

There are 272 directly-elected seats in the lower house of parliament, but races for three seats were not held because a candidate had died. A new vote will be scheduled for those seats after alternative names are proposed.

Independent candidates who normally join the party that forms the government won 25 seats.

Nawaz Sharif

Pakistan's prime minister elect

Early years

Born 1949 in Lahore; son of an industrialist; Muslim family

Education Punjab University Law College, Lahore

Family business

1972 Family iron foundry firm, which he works in, is lost due to then Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's nationalization policy

1977 Director in the family firm reestablished as Ittefaq Industries

Political career

1981 Finance minister of Punjab province; appointed by Zia ul-Haq's government

1985 Chief minister in Punjab

1990 Member of parliament; leads the 10-party Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA)

1990-1993 Prime minister

1997-1999 Prime minister; brought series of constitutional changes to stifle institutional opposition to his rule

1999 Overthrown in coup by Gen. Pervez Musharraf and sent to jail; later exhiled, along with 40 family members, to Saudi Arabia

2007 Returns to Pakistan after deal with the military

2013 Poised to take over as prime minister and form the next government

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Source: AP, BBC, MCT Photo Service

World

US diplomat ordered to leave Russia in spy case

MOSCOW (AP)—A U.S. diplomat was ordered Tuesday to leave the country after the Kremlin's security services said he tried to recruit a Russian agent, and they displayed tradecraft tools that seemed straight from a cheap spy thriller: wigs, packets of cash, a knife, map and compass, and a letter promising millions for "long-term cooperation."

The FSB, the successor agency to the Soviet-era KGB, identified the diplomat as Ryan Fogle, a third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, detaining him briefly overnight.

It alleged that Fogle was a CIA officer trying to recruit a Russian counterterrorism officer who specializes in the volatile Caucasus region in southern Russia, where the two Boston Marathon bombing suspects had their ethnic roots.

Fogle was handed over to U.S. Embassy officials, declared persona non grata and ordered to leave Russia immediately. He has diplomatic immunity, which protects him from arrest.

The State Department would only confirm that Fogle worked as an embassy employee, but wouldn't give any details about his employment record or responsibilities in Russia. Some officials also referred inquiries to the CIA, which declined comment.

SP

In this handout photo provided by the FSB, acronym for Russian Federal Security Service, a man claimed by FSB to be Ryan Fogle, right, a third secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, with Embassy officials at left, sits in the the FSB offices in Moscow, easrly Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

Fogle was the first American diplomat to be publicly accused of spying in Russia in about a decade. While relations between the two countries have been strained, officials in both Washington and Moscow sought to play down the incident.

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned U.S. Ambassador Michael McFaul to appear Wednesday in connection with the case. McFaul said he would not comment on the spying allegation.

Russian officials expressed indignation the U.S. would carry out an espionage operation at a time when the two countries have been working to improve counterterrorism cooperation. "Such provocative actions in the spirit of the Cold War do nothing to strengthen mutual trust," the Foreign Ministry said.

Russia's Caucasus region includes the provinces of Chechnya and Dagestan. The suspects in the April 15 Boston Marathon bombings—Dzhokhar Tsarnaev and his elder brother, Tamerlan, who was killed in a manhunt—are ethnic Chechens. Tamerlan spent six months last year in Dagestan, now the center of an Islamic insurgency.

U.S. investigators have been working with the Russians to try to determine whether Tamerlan Tsarnaev had established any contacts with militants in Dagestan.

Despite the end of the Cold War, Russia and the United States still maintain active espionage operations against each other. Last year, several Russians were convicted in separate cases of spying for the U.S. and sentenced to lengthy prison sentences.

But Tuesday's case had espionage elements that seemed more like "Spy vs. Spy" than Ludlum and le Carre.

Russian state TV showed pictures of a man said to be Fogle, wearing a baseball cap and a blond wig, lying face down on the ground. The man, without the wig, was also shown sitting at a desk in the offices of the FSB, the Federal Security Service.

Two wigs, a compass, a map of Moscow, a pocket knife, three pairs of sunglasses and envelopes of 500 euro notes (each bill worth $649) were among the items the FSB displayed on a table.

The FSB also produced a typewritten letter that it described as instructions to the Russian agent who was the target of Fogle's alleged recruitment effort. The letter, in Russian and addressed "Dear friend," offers $100,000 to "discuss your experience, expertise and cooperation" and up to $1 million a year for long-term cooperation. The letter also includes instructions for opening a Gmail account to be used for communication and an address to write. It is signed "Your friends."

Nigeria president declares state of emergency

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Admitting Islamic extremists now control some of his nation's villages and towns, Nigeria's president declared a state of emergency Tuesday across the country's troubled northeast, promising to send more troops to fight what he said is now an open rebellion.

President Goodluck Jonathan, speaking live on state radio and television networks, also warned that any building suspected to house Islamic extremists would be taken over in what he described as the "war" now facing Africa's most populous nation. However, it's unclear what the emergency powers will do to halt the violence, as a similar past effort failed to stop the bloodshed.

"It would appear that there is a systematic effort by insurgents and terrorists to destabilize the Nigerian state and test our collective resolve," Jonathan said.

Jonathan said the order will be in force in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. He said the states would receive more troops, though he will not remove state politicians from their posts. Under Nigerian law, the president has the power to remove politicians from their posts and install a caretaker government in emergency circumstances.

The president's speech offered the starkest vision of the ongoing violence, often downplayed by security forces and government officials due to political considerations. Jonathan described the attacks as a "rebellion," at one point describing how fighters had destroyed government buildings and "had taken women and children as hostages."

"Already, some northern parts of Borno state have been taken over by groups whose allegiance are to different flags than Nigeria's," Jonathan said.

The president later added: "These actions amount to a declaration of war and a deliberate attempt to undermine the authority of the Nigerian state and threaten (its) territorial integrity. As a responsible government, we will not tolerate this."

Gunmen open fire on liquor stores in Iraq, 11 dead

HEROR, Iraq (AP)—A convoy of gunmen opened fire on a row of liquor stores in eastern Baghdad immediately after sunset on Tuesday, killing 11 people and wounding five others, officials said.

Police said the gunmen were in four cars that had stopped in the area and attacked shortly after sunset. Hospital officials confirmed the casualties. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to media.

The attack in the Zayouna neighborhood came as the stores were at their peak business time, when commuters buy alcohol on the way home from work. Police say the four liquor stores hit had been rebuilt after bombers destroyed them in a previous attack last year.

Nobody claimed responsibility, although Islamic extremists have frequently targeted liquor stores in Iraq, where alcohol is available in most cities.

Meanwhile in the country's north, the first Kurdish fighters entered Iraq from Turkey as part of a peace deal with Ankara to end a decades-long uprising despite Iraqi objections to the transfer.

The rebels' retreat to bases in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region is a key stage in the peace process between the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, and the Turkish government, aimed at ending one of the world's bloodiest insurgencies.

The PKK declared a cease-fire in March, heeding a call from its imprisoned leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who is engaged in talks with Turkey to end a nearly 30-year battle that has cost tens of thousands of lives.

Carrying rifles and hand grenades, the first 13 men and women arrived Tuesday in Heror in the Iraqi Kurdish area and were greeted by comrades serving refreshments of tea and cookies.

"We have been on the road for the past seven days," said Sawashka Kawar, one of the fighters. "But today, we made it and arrived in Iraq despite the difficult journey."

Israeli leader under fire for costly lifestyle

JERUSALEM (AP)—For years, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been saddled with an image of a cigar-smoking, cognac-drinking socialite. Now a new disclosure about his soaring spending on housekeeping, furniture, clothing and other expenses is increasing pressure on him in a country whose leaders once were known for washing their own dishes and taking out the garbage.

Netanyahu

The uproar, which began with a TV station's report that Netanyahu spent $127,000 in public funds for a special sleeping cabin on a recent five-hour flight to London, fuels criticism that he is out of touch with average Israelis who are struggling with tax increases amid a huge budget deficit.

Netanyahu's expenses have soared nearly 80 percent since he took office in 2009, totaling about $905,000 last year, according to a civil liberties group that obtained government figures after filing a freedom of information request.

His spending on catering, housekeeping, cleaning, furniture, clothing and makeup all doubled during the four-year period, according to the group, called the Movement for Freedom of Information.

Netanyahu and his family split their time among three homes, including an official Jerusalem residence, a private apartment in Jerusalem and a villa in the upscale coastal town of Caesarea.

Although Netanyahu was reelected in January, his victory margin was much narrower than expected. The vote came on the heels of a protest movement against Israel's high cost of living and widening gaps between rich and poor, and the campaign focused largely on domestic economic issues.

The new national budget, passed Monday, increases income, sales and real estate taxes while cutting family subsidies and medical benefits. Additional taxes were also slapped on cigarettes, alcohol and luxury goods.

Against this backdrop, veteran Israeli political reporter Shimon Shiffer recounted in the Yediot Ahronot daily that Netanyahu and his wife Sara are always accompanied abroad by hairdressers and makeup artists.

On a recent flight with Netanyahu, he said he saw two young men holding large bags.

"For a moment, under the influence of movies I'd seen about things that can happen in the American president's plane, I thought that it might be the suitcase containing the codes to operate the nuclear weapons that Israel allegedly possesses," he wrote.

"A brief investigation turned up slightly less heroic results: The two men were hairdressers who had been flown ... to make sure his hair was properly styled and brushed," Shiffer wrote.

In a statement, the prime minister's office said the figures included expenses for events and working meetings that took place at the official residence.

Israeli leaders were once lauded for their modesty. Prime ministers lived in humble homes, took the bus to work and performed household tasks like washing the dishes and taking out the garbage. But as Israel has evolved from its socialist, agrarian roots to an affluent, high-tech power, its leaders have also taken a liking to the spoils of office.

Netanyahu isn't the first leader to be criticized by Israelis for living it up. Former Defense Minister Ehud Barak angered his Labor party supporters with a lavish lifestyle that included buying a Tel Aviv apartment reportedly worth more than $10 million. And Ehud Olmert, who served as prime minister before Netanyahu, was known for his love of the finer things in life like fancy pens and cigars.

Israeli leaders are of course not alone in this regard. Two runways at Los Angeles International Airport were shut down for nearly an hour in 1993 while U.S. President Bill Clinton got a haircut from a high-priced hairdresser while Air Force One sat on the tarmac. He later said it was a mistake and that he never meant to inconvenience anyone.

Focus

In this Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 file photo, actress Angelina Jolie poses for a portrait to promote her directorial debut of the film "In the Land of Blood and Honey" in New York.
AP

ANGELINA JOLIE

From girl with tattoos to girl with a cause

By SANDY COHEN and DAVID GERMAIN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In her bad girl days, Angelina Jolie's body was a billboard for tattoos that said such things as "Billy Bob."

Now she's sharing intimate details of her anatomy to help women at risk, going public with her preventive double mastectomy to greatly reduce her high odds of breast cancer.

It's the latest peak in Jolie's turn-around from hedonist to humanitarian, party girl to inspirational poster girl. The way she went public with her medical story on her own terms, in her own time—with a *New York Times* op-ed piece Tuesday that caught the media fishbowl of Hollywood completely by surprise—reveals a woman who once seemed out of control to be one of Hollywood's most forceful and compassionate stars, using her fame with surgical precision to promote matters dear to her.

"I'm in awe of her. She remains one of the most inspiring women that I've ever encountered," said former Paramount Pictures boss Sherry Lansing, who heads the Sherry Lansing Foundation for cancer research. "By letting people know about her personal issue, she is touching countless women who have the same genetic mutations, and she is showing them that they have choices and they can be empowered and can take care of their own health. And by doing so, I believe she is going to save countless lives."

Jolie's come a long way from her wild-child days of 10 or 12 years ago. She was branded a home-wrecker when she took up with Billy Bob Thornton, who broke up with Laura Dern and married Jolie. Thornton and Jolie were a tabloid writer's dream team, an odd couple who wore lockets with a drop of each other's blood.

Back in 2000, Jolie proudly showed off the newest of her 10 tattoos, the name "Billy Bob" etched across her left shoulder. The marriage ended three years later, and new home-wrecker accusations arose after Brad Pitt left Jennifer Aniston for Jolie, his co-star in the 2005 assassin adventure "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

But since then, while paparazzi stalk them and entertainment reporters scramble to chase the latest rumor that Jolie and Pitt are finally going to wed, they have emerged as the ultimate Hollywood power couple. They switch off on film projects so one is free to mind their six children, they travel the world talking up good deeds.

"If she wasn't one of the top actresses in Hollywood, she'd be one of the top publicists," said Howard Bragman, vice chairman of Reputation.com. "It's hard to think of a couple that has a better image in this town, both for their careers, family, humanitarian work. ... They're very good at it, and one of the reasons is they have a very intimate circle that they trust, and they don't go beyond that. It's unusual in Hollywood circles, but they're very strict about their personal life, about what gets out there. When something gets out there, it's usually planned to get out there. It doesn't leak. They don't even have publicists."

A special envoy on refugee issues for the United Nations, Jolie, 37, has become as much about causes as career.

She still makes big studio entertainment such as next year's "Maleficent," a twist on "Sleeping Beauty" in which she stars as the wicked sorceress who puts a curse on the fairy-tale princess. Yet Jolie puts her humanitarian interests on screen, too, making her directing debut with 2011's "In the Land of Blood and Honey," a war drama about two lovers—a Bosnian Muslim woman and a Bosnian-Serbian man—caught up in the horrors of work and rape camps.

> *"I feel empowered that I made a strong choice that in no way diminishes my femininity."*

"There is no difference between the star Angelina Jolie and the woman Angelina Jolie. The choices she made even as a director are still strong," said Thierry Fremaux, director of the Cannes Film Festival, where Jolie has been a frequent guest with films such as "Changeling" and "A Mighty Heart."

As for Jolie's op-ed piece about her mastectomy, "we all know that she didn't do that for herself but as giving an example to all the women on this planet Earth who are suffering from the same disease," Fremaux said. "We knew she was a great star, but she's a great person, as well."

Jolie wrote about her mother's death from cancer at 56 and that she carries a gene herself that, according to doctors, left her with an 87 percent chance of breast cancer and 50 percent chance of ovarian cancer. She describes in detail the procedures she underwent from early February to late April to remove tissue and reconstruct her breasts with implants.

She was treated at the Pink Lotus Breast Center in Beverly Hills, Calif. Dr. Kristi Funk, who founded the center in 2007, read a short statement to reporters Tuesday, saying "we hope that the awareness she is raising around the world will save countless lives."

The procedures reduced her risk of breast cancer to less than 5 percent, Jolie wrote.

"I wanted to write this to tell other women that the decision to have a mastectomy was not easy. But it is one I am very happy that I made," Jolie wrote. "I can tell my children that they don't need to fear they will lose me to breast cancer."

One of the most remarkable aspects of the story is how two of the most recognizable people in the world were able to make repeated incognito trips to Pink Lotus, where Jolie writes that Pitt was there for every minute of her surgeries. Jolie and Pitt are hounded by the press, so how they kept this a secret is anyone's guess.

"It's almost unspeakably amazing. In this world there is no privacy. David Petraeus couldn't keep a secret," said Hollywood publicist Michael Levine, who once represented Jolie's father, Jon Voight. "It's hard to imagine how they did it."

Announcing it in such a personal and classy way can only enhance Jolie's stature in Hollywood. With family and philanthropic work, Jolie has eased back on film projects, with future prospects including a possible sequel to her action hit "Salt," in which she played a sexy CIA agent on the run.

Will the mastectomy have any effect on Jolie's sex-symbol image?

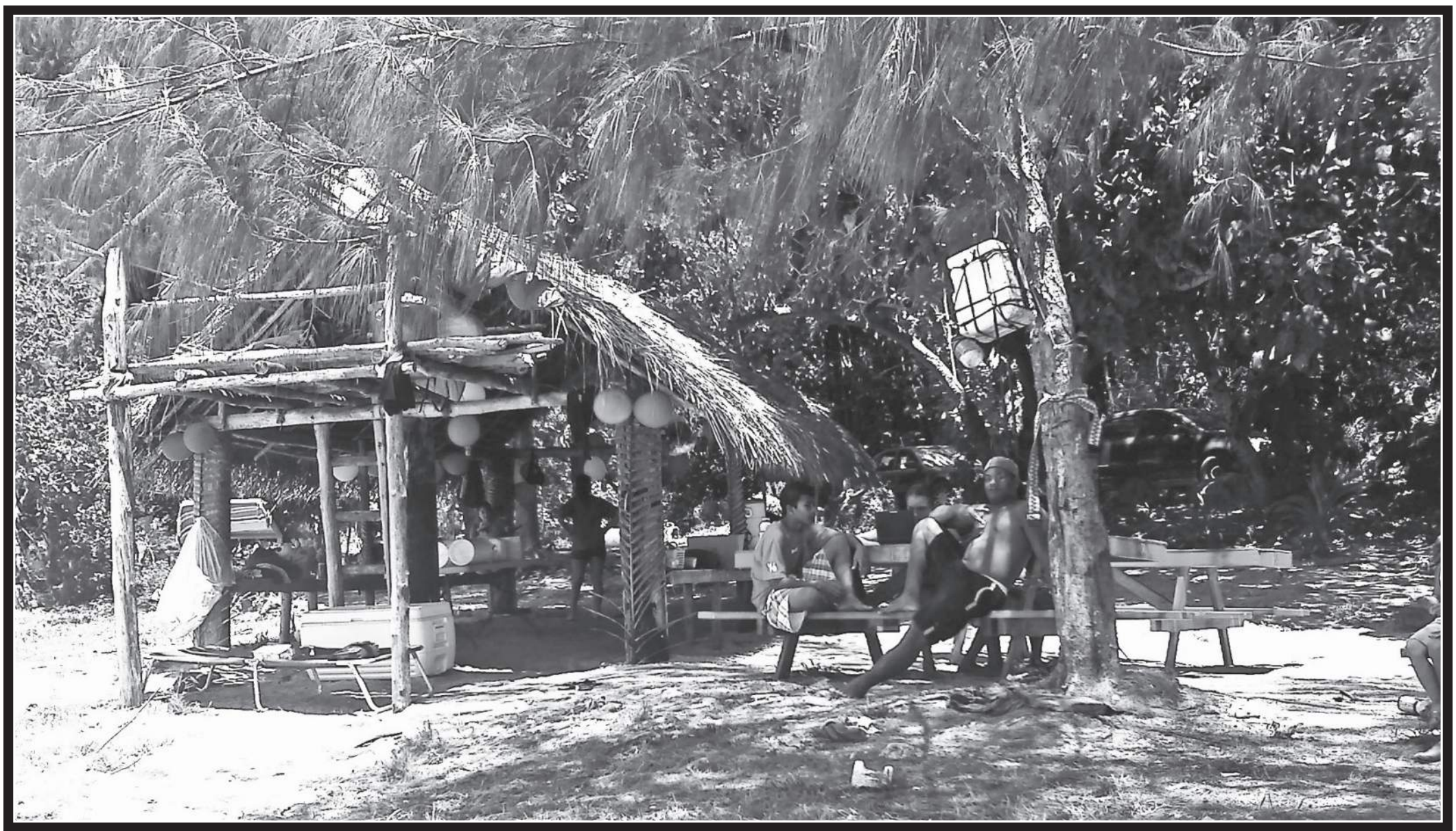
"I feel like she is the kind of person who will do whatever it takes to still look fantastic. I think she has a discipline that is unmatched," said Dave Karger, chief correspondent for movie-ticket seller Fandango.com. "She will make sure that she looks just as great as she has in the past.

"I don't think that's going to make much of a difference, and I think a lot of people are going to have more respect. This humanizes her in a way. She's not that perfect specimen sticking her leg out at the Oscars anymore. She's a real human being with real health issues like any other human being."

A real human being, and no less of a woman, to hear Jolie tell it.

"I feel empowered that I made a strong choice that in no way diminishes my femininity," Jolie wrote.

Environment



Winning photo submission by Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos.

Our Laolao photo contest names three winners

Over 100 online viewers cast votes selecting siblings Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos and Amanda Marie W. Santos, and Mike Ronesia as the winners of the Our Laolao photo contest. The contest honors the one-year anniversary of the Our Laolao-Litter Free on Land and Sea campaign, a collaborative effort between CNMI government agencies and organizations to reduce litter in Laolao Bay and the greater Saipan community.

Photo entries, submitted via Facebook in March and April, ran the gamut, from capturing Laolao Bay's natural beauty to highlighting quality time with friends and family. The winning photograph, submitted by Cha Cha Ocean View Junior High School seventh grader Patrick Jerome Jr. W. Santos, invited viewers to appreciate the social benefits of the Bay. His photo depicts beachgoers relaxing under the shade of a festively decorated Laolao Bay hut.

"I took this photo during my nephew's birthday party; it captures the moment of togetherness," said Patrick Santos. "Laolao Bay is a place where we come together as a family and celebrate many occasions." As the first place winner, Patrick Santos won a Kodak Playsport video camera.

Amanda Marie W. Santos won second place for her photo highlighting the work of Laolao Bay volunteers, capturing the silhouette of three Tasi Watch volunteers with the crystal clear waters of Laolao Bay as the backdrop. Amanda Santos, a sophomore at Northern Marianas College who is studying natural resource management, took this photo as a way to share how she and her friends feel about Laolao Bay.

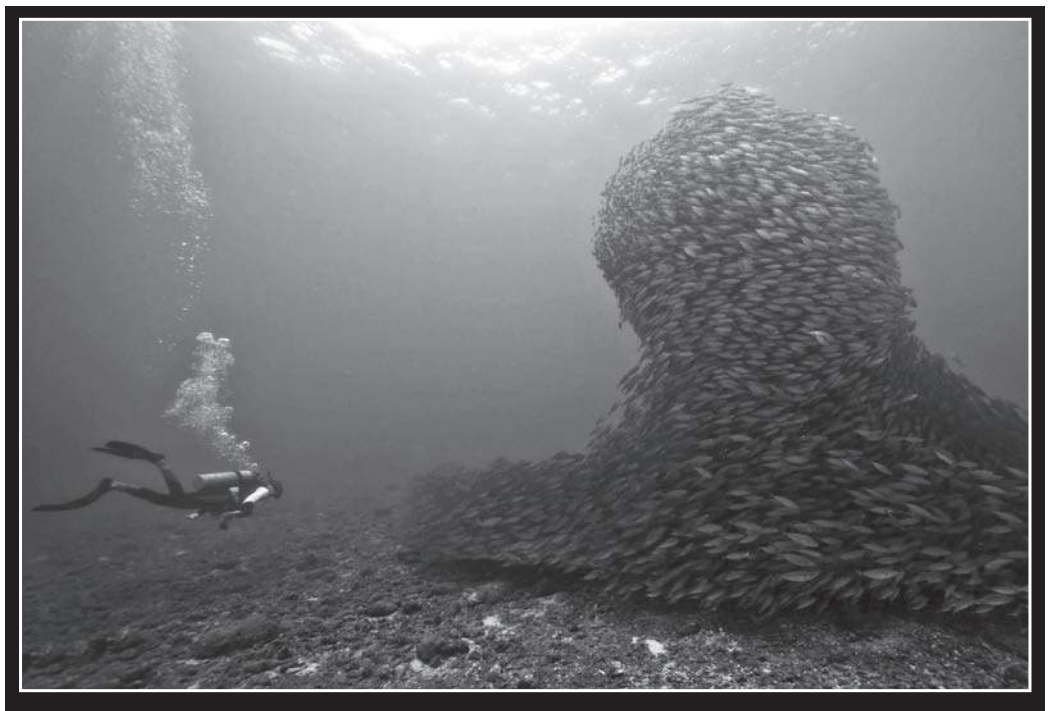
"When my friends look out to Laolao Bay, they see what I see: the richness and value," said Amanda Santos. "I enjoy looking out and seeing tiny fish swim by and watching the shore birds try to catch their meal." For her photo, Amanda Santos won a complimentary lunch for two at Shenanigans Restaurant.

The photo contest committee also recognizes the underwater photo, titled "Sea Monster," submitted by photographer Mike Ronesia. Ronesia took this photo roughly two years ago when a school of thousands of Atuli (Big Eyed Scad) swam through Laolao Bay.

"In my eight years diving on Saipan, I have never seen a school of fish as big as it was that day," recalled Ronesia.

In addition to highlighting an important ecological occurrence, Ronesia's photo embodies his favorite pastime at Laolao Bay. "It is our go-to year round spot for diving, where I get a chance to be one with nature and meditate any stress away," he said. ***(PR)***

Second place photo by Amanda Maria Santos.



Honorable mention photo by Mike Ronesia.

Life & Style

Jolie admired for bravery in mastectomy revelation

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—"I hope that other women can benefit from my experience," Angelina Jolie wrote in a powerful op-ed article Tuesday, explaining her decision to go public with having her breasts removed to avoid cancer.

But amid the accolades for the film star's courageous revelation, doctors and genetic counselors were careful to note that her medical situation—an inherited genetic mutation putting her at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer—was very specific, and that her course of action made sense for only a small category of women.

Still, they hailed her bravery and said that she would surely help increase awareness—and thus, perhaps, help save some lives.

"Having this conversation empowers us all," said Rebecca Nagy, a genetic counselor who works frequently with women who test positive for a defective version of the BRCA1 gene, as Jolie did. "It's wonderful what she's done."

In a stunning op-ed piece in the New York Times, Jolie, 37, began by speaking of her late mother, Marcheline Bertrand, who died of cancer at 56, before she was able to meet most of her grandchildren.

The actress revealed that beginning in February, she underwent three surgeries—which she succeeded in keeping secret from the public—in which her breasts were removed, and later replaced by implants.

"I wanted to write this to tell other women that the decision to have a mastectomy was not easy. But it is one I am very happy that I made," Jolie wrote. "My chances of developing breast cancer have dropped from 87 percent to under 5 percent. I can tell my children that they don't need to fear they will lose me to breast cancer."

The actress also hinted that she might, at some point, have her ovaries removed, saying that she had "started with the breasts" because her risk of breast cancer was higher than that for ovarian cancer. She did not say how long ago she was diagnosed with the faulty gene.

While admiring Jolie's straightforwardness, cancer surgeons and others in the medical community were quick to point out that hereditary cases of breast cancer account for only about 5 percent to 7 percent of all cases diagnosed each year. And those connected to the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are an even smaller group.

And so, women shouldn't just run off and get tested for those genes, said Dr. Robert Shenk, medical director of the Breast Center at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland.

"My worry is that people will be inappropriately tested," said Shenk. "Awareness is great, but people shouldn't just run in off the street and get a test."

Instead, he said, genetic counseling, including a close review of a patient's family history, is crucial.

Nagy, the genetic counselor, who is also president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, agreed.

"The clues are in the family history. Has there been cancer in multiple generations?" she said. "Are there clusters of cancers, like breast and ovarian, on the same side of the family? Has the cancer been diagnosed at an early age—under 50?"

If those factors exist, Nagy said, she conducts a thorough risk assessment with the patient. And if testing is warranted, there still needs to be some thought beforehand as to what one might do with the information.

AP
This March 8, 2012 file photo shows actress Angelina Jolie at the Women in the World Summit in New York.

"It might not necessarily be surgery," Nagy said. "It might be much more frequent screenings. Surgery isn't right for everyone."

That's the decision that Gabrielle Brett made—at least initially. Brett was only 23 when she tested positive for the BRCA1 gene. She had just met her future husband, James, a month earlier. She wanted to have a family, so she waited.

But at age 29, her husband said she shouldn't wait any longer. She should have her breasts removed before they had kids, even though she wouldn't be able to nurse them. She ultimately agreed. She had the surgery and then had two children. Now 35, she is two weeks from her due date with her third.

Brett woke up in the middle of the night Tuesday, read about Jolie's article on Facebook, and excitedly woke her husband. "It's amazing to hear that someone so famous went through the same thing," she said in a telephone interview. "It makes me realize we are all on the same journey."

Brett, who lives in Shaker Heights, Ohio, also figures that Jolie went through some tough moments, however serene she sounded in her article.

"I'm sure it wasn't quite so simple," she said. "There's sadness, anger, fear. I did a lot of crying alone in the car. But once I had the surgery, I felt a huge weight come off of me. I was no longer worrying whether there was cancer growing inside me somewhere. I felt nothing but relief."

And, she said, it was crucial that she was accompanied throughout her journey by "my own Brad Pitt"—her husband, who was there through every moment, as Jolie says partner Pitt was for her at the Pink Lotus Breast Center in southern California.

There is one part of the journey Brett has not tackled yet: removal of her ovaries. That, she said, will come a bit later, when she is 40.

Doctors stress that no one solution is right for everyone who tests positive. And even for those with a risky family history, it's not necessarily always right to test right away, they say.

"You don't necessarily want to test an 18-year-old, sending her into a panic at such a young age," said Shenk. "You might consider that she's unlikely to get cancer in her 20s. You would maybe test her later."

Another potential downside to the testing: the cost, which can reach $3,000, though it's usually covered by insurance and there are programs for women who can't afford it.

And some women might simply not be prepared for the results, said Dr. Eric Winer, head of the breast program at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. "Once you get the information, you have to be able to deal with it," he said.

If one does test positive, Winer stressed, it could be a reasonable solution to undergo intensive surveillance with MRI tests and mammograms. Or, some women choose to remove only their ovaries, which in pre-menopausal women seems to reduce the risk of breast cancer, too.

But in Jolie's case, Winer said, it's hard to argue with her choice of preventive surgery. "I tend to be a less-is-more doctor," said Winer. "But I do think the choice she made is a rational, reasonable one."

There is a risk, he noted, that with the actress's celebrity power, people will see her choice and think it's the only one. If they do get cancer, "most women are well-served by conservative surgery, as in a lumpectomy," with chemotherapy and/or radiation, he said.

But any risk is outweighed by Jolie's ability to promote awareness, Winer added. "The more people who ask their doctors about this, the better."

Dr. Kristi Funk, founder of the Pink Lotus Center where Jolie was treated, agreed. "We hope that the awareness she is raising around the world will save countless lives," Funk said.

Jolie's most positive influence, some say, may be in the fact that such a glamorous woman has come forward—in great detail—to talk about how one can lose one's breasts and still remain, well, a woman.

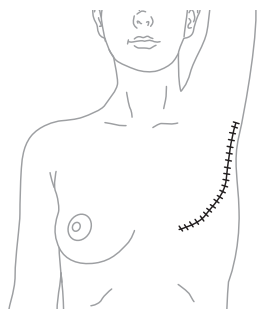
"I do not feel any less of a woman," Jolie wrote in her article. "I feel empowered that I made a strong choice that in no way diminishes my femininity."

That impressed Nagy, the genetic counselor. "For women, so much is tied to sexuality, to sensuality," she said. "Many women feel defined by that. So for her to be such an icon and come out and say, `Look what I did'—I'm hoping that prompts other women to have conversations, about their own options."

Preventive mastectomy

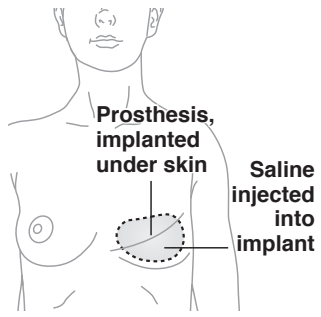
More women who find they are at high risk for breast cancer – such as actress Angelina Jolie – are choosing to have healthy breasts removed to reduce their chances of getting the disease. The surgery, called preventive (or prophylactic) double mastectomy, is often accompanied by breast reconstruction.

Total mastectomy



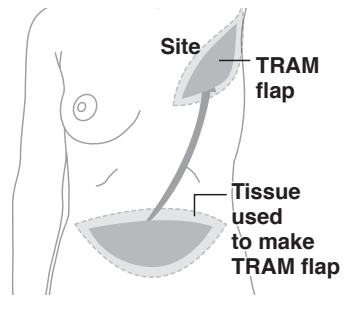
All breast tissue, some or all arm pit lymph nodes are removed; both breasts are totally removed in preventive mastectomy

Reconstruction with implants



One reconstructive procedure involves placing a prosthesis under the skin, then slowly filing it with saline to create a breast mound

Natural reconstruction



An alternative procedure is to remove tissue – skin, muscle and blood vessels – from lower abdomen (TRAP flap) and transfer it under the skin to the breast site

Top risk factors

Reasons why women may choose preventive mastectomy

- Mutations in certain genes, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2, which may cause breast cancer (Jolie's reason)
- Previous breast cancer or family history of the disease
- Tiny calcium deposits in the breasts or dense breasts
- Radiation therapy to the chest before age 30
- Lobular carcinoma in situ, unusual cells in the lobules of the breast

Source: Rush University Medical Center, Medline Plus, New York Times Graphic: Pat Carr, Melina Yingling © 2013 MCT

CELEBRITIES REACT

Celebrities react to Angelina Jolie's revelation Tuesday in a New York Times editorial that she underwent a preventive double mastectomy:

■ "She'll have empowered millions of women all over world. She is sexier than ever."—Sharon Osbourne, who announced last year that she underwent the same preventive procedure.

■ "Huge prayers for Angelina Jolie & her family as she convalesces & bravo for raising awareness! (hash) GetWellSoonAngie"—Actress Octavia Spencer on Twitter.

■ "Angelina Jolie reveals double mastectomy. Proud of her for using her incredible platform to educate women."—TV personality and breast cancer survivor Giuliana Rancic on Twitter.

■ "There is no difference between the star Angelina Jolie and the woman Angelina Jolie. The choices she made even as a director are still strong, when you read what she wrote about her own situation, and we all know that she didn't do that for herself but as giving an example to all the women on this planet earth who are suffering from the same disease."—Cannes Film Festival director Thierry Fremaux.

■ "It's definitely a personal choice for her. But I understand her point that she's trying to create awareness for women throughout the world so that they can prevent getting breast cancer. So I think she's trying to do a positive thing."—Victoria's Secret model Adriana Lima at a Victoria's Secret event in Santa Monica, California.

■ "This absolutely blew my mind. Angelina Jolie speaking out about a difficult decision that will inform + empower others."—Actress Nina Dobrev, on her website.

■ "(hash)angelinajolie thank you for sharing your story and helping women around the world (hash) inspirational"—Singer and breast cancer survivor Kylie Minogue on Twitter.

■ "Always liked Angelina Jolie... After today she's a real hero for being so brave in sharing her story & educating millions of women."—Tweeted TV personality Mario Lopez.

■ "Not sure if I could ever face harsh reality as calmly, pragmatically, and fearlessly as Angelina Jolie did. Still kinda stunned."—Comedian Patton Oswalt on Twitter.

At actress' Geneva jewel auction, $3M for one gem

GENEVA (AP)—Sotheby's auctioned off $78 million in jewels Tuesday night, fetching just under $3 million for a fancy yellow diamond belonging to actress Gina Lollobrigida that was once owned by a shah of Persia and she hoped would now bring more support for stem cell research.

The auction house said the diamond was a highlight in a collection of 23 jewels that the 85-year-old actress, who starred opposite Humphrey Bogart, Frank Sinatra and other top actors in the 1950s and 1960s, was selling partly to fund an international hospital for stem cell treatment.

Jewelry, watches and other luxury items are sold every spring by the big auction houses at Geneva's elegant lakefront hotels—seemingly a world away from some European countries whose economies are shrinking as their governments enact often tough budget austerity measures to get a handle on their debts.

AP

A model holds a yellow 74.53 carat diamond from the late 19th century during an auction preview at Sotheby's in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, May 7, 2013.

The 74.53-carat fancy yellow diamond that was sold off once belonged to Ahmad Shah Qajar, the shah of Persia from 1909 to 1925 and the last ruler of the Qajar dynasty. Its sale for $2,985,750 set both an auction record and a record price per carat—an eye-popping $40,061 per carat—for a fancy yellow diamond, according to a statement Sotheby's issued at the conclusion of the auction.

Sotheby's said eight bidders fought for Lollobrigida's natural pearl earrings, which finally sold for $2.39 million and set a new auction record for such an item.

Lollobrigida said after the auction that her jewels had brought her much pleasure for many years, and she only thought of selling them after seeing a little girl named Sofia suffering from a disorder that required stem cell treatment which she could not find in her native Italy.

"Selling my jewels to help raise awareness of stem cell therapy, which can cure so many illnesses, seems to me a wonderful use to which to put them," she said. "It is my hope that the Italian parliament will approve this ground-breaking treatment, so that children and adults in Italy should have free access to it without having to travel abroad at great expense."

David Bennett, chairman of Sotheby's Switzerland and its European and Middle East jewelry departments, said Lollobrigida's collection included some of the finest designs created by Bulgari in the 1950s and 1960s, and their sale reflects her generosity and humanitarian work.

Her jewels were just the top draw at an auction of hundreds of pieces that Sotheby's said brought in an estimated $78,229,556.

Among the other items auctioned off was Barcelona star Lionel Messi's Audemars Piguet No. 10 Royal Oak Chronograph wristwatch, which sold for $81,850 to raise money for the four-time FIFA player of the year's foundation.

Nicole Richie gets candid in a new AOL web series

NEW YORK (AP)—As the Twitterverse expands with millions of users, it can be hard to have a unique voice. Nicole Richie doesn't have that problem.

Some examples:

"'It's 8:30am & I've already gotten into 5 fights' - thugs, and parents of toddlers."

"This therapist is going to be GREAT for me once I stop lying to him."

"I'm gonna dress up as an iPhone so my husband pays attention to me."

Tweets like that earned her not only millions of followers but the attention of production company Telepictures, which was already aware of Richie's popularity and wanted to work with her.

"As soon as we began pursuing her we also began following her on Twitter," recalls Laura Mandel, Sr. Vice President of Development of Telepictures. "We were struck by how funny and candid she was and wanted to really showcase that side of her personality, which we haven't seen in a long time."

Richie

They teamed up with AOL to create the web series (hash)CandidlyNicole. Each video is about five minutes and a new one is posted every Tuesday morning.

The first webisode, where 31-year-old Richie consults with a doctor about having her "tramp stamp" (or tattoo on her lower back) removed, earned 1 million views in just its first week. (Try not to at least smirk as she keeps referring to the doctor as "Dr. Tatt-off.")

In a recent phone interview, Richie said she's "thrilled" by the response but still has a hard time grasping that she's funny.

"My husband (musician Joel Madden) doesn't think I'm funny at all," she said. "He has not laughed at a joke of mine since 2006. I don't necessarily always just mean to be funny. I just kind of say whatever's on my mind but I do know that I have a very specific way of looking at my life."

Of course, Richie is no stranger to television. She first appeared alongside Paris Hilton on "The Simple Life," where they were filmed working in fish-out-of-water situations as interns or camp counselors. Richie also just wrapped a second season as a mentor on the competition show "Fashion Star" on NBC.

But Richie appreciates the format of the webisode.

"We are living in a world where everything needs to be a little bit shorter to keep people's attention," she said. "Especially the younger audience, which is why I think Twitter is so great."

She gets together once a week to film with a small camera crew. They go over ideas of what to shoot, but each video really is born from a Tweet she has posted. When the video gets posted she says she looks to her little sister for reassurance.

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THE GREAT GATSBY [CC] (PG-13) (415 PM)
IRON MAN 3 [CC] (PG-13) (425 PM) 725 PM
THE GREAT GATSBY 3D [CC] (PG-13) 715 PM
IRON MAN 3 3D [CC] (PG-13) (400 PM) 700 PM
PAIN AND GAIN (R) (405 PM) 705 PM
OBLIVION [CC] (PG-13) (430 PM) 730 PM
GI JOE: RETALIATION [CC] (PG-13) 710 PM
THE CROODS [CC] (PG) (410 PM)

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Jackson is described as 'loopy' after doctor visits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson appeared "a little loopy" after visits with his longtime dermatologist and was considering using a teleprompter to help him perform some of his songs during his ill-fated comeback concerts, a choreographer who worked one-on-one with the pop superstar told a jury Tuesday.

Travis Payne said he expressed concerns to the director of the "This Is It" shows that Jackson might be misusing prescription medications and was exhibiting troubling signs of insomnia, weight loss and paranoia in his final days.

Some of the behavior occurred after Jackson's visits with dermatologist Dr. Arnold Klein, who Payne believed was performing cosmetic treatments on the singer so he would be comfortable performing onstage again.

"Sometimes in rehearsal, Michael would appear just a little loopy," Payne said, adding that the singer appeared to be "assisted or under the influence of something."

Jackson's condition and missed rehearsals led to talk within the last 10 days of Jackson's life that AEG Live LLC, which was promoting "This Is It," might cancel the concert series.

Payne was working for AEG and said he relayed his concerns about Jackson's possible prescription drug use to tour director Kenny Ortega. Jackson was struggling to get into shape for the shows, and Payne said his voice coach suggested using a voice track for fast-paced songs until the singer's stamina improved.

He said Jackson wanted to use a teleprompter during the shows as "extra security," but it was an aid the performer had not used in his two previous tours.

The choreographer testified for AEG, which is being sued by Jackson's mother. Katherine Jackson claims AEG failed to properly investigate Conrad Murray, the doctor who was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for Jackson's death.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending May 13, 2013:

TOP SONGS
1. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
3. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
4. "Come & Get It," Selena Gomez
5. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
6. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
7. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop
8. "(hash)Beautiful (feat. Miguel)," Mariah Carey
9. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
10. "Boys 'Round Here (feat. Pistol Annies & Friends)," Blake Shelton

TOP ALBUMS
1. "The Great Gatsby (Music from Baz Luhrmann's Film)," Various Artists
2. "Golden," Lady Antebellum
3. "Annie Up," Pistol Annies
4. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
5. "The Heist,"Macklemore & Ryan Lewis
6. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
7. "Life on a Rock," Kenny Chesney
8. "Now That's What I Call Music, Vol. 46," Various Artists
9. "Haunted House EP," Knife Party
10. "To Be Loved," Michael Buble

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending May 6, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS
1. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)
4. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
5. AfterLight (Simon Filip)
6. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
7. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
8. Cut the Rope: Time Travel (ZeptoLab UK Limited)
9. Kick the Buddy: No Mercy (Crustalli)
10. Arms Cartel Global, Pixel Addicts

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS
1. Hardest Game Ever 2 (Orangenose Studios)
2. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
3. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
4. FallDown! 2 (Hannes Jensen)
5. Dots: A Game About Connecting (Betaworks One)
6. Running with Friends (Zynga Inc.)
7. Sniper Shoot by Fun Games for Free (Fun Games For Free)
8. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
9. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
10. Path (Path, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS
1. Survivalcraft (Igor Kalicinski)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Heads Up! (Warner Bros.)
4. Doc McStuffins: Time For Your Check Up! (Disney)
5. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run (Nickelodeon)
6. LEGO Batman: DC Super Heroes (Warner Bros.)
7. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
8. Pages (Apple)
9. iMovie (Apple)
10. Bastion (Warner Bros.)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS
1. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
2. Hardest Game Ever 2 HD (Orangenose Studios)
3. Angry Birds Friends, Rovio Entertainment Ltd
4. Asphalt 7: Heat (Gameloft)
5. Running with Friends HD (Zynga Inc.)
6. Iron Man 3 - The Official Game (Gameloft)
7. YouTube (Google Inc.)
8. My Penguin (Disney)
9. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications)
10. FallDown! 2 (Hannes Jensen)

Dr. Dre, Iovine donate $70M for new USC center

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hip-hop mogul Dr. Dre, whose real name is Andre Young, and music industry entrepreneur Jimmy Iovine have donated a combined $70 million to create a new institute at the University of Southern California, the school announced Tuesday night.

The huge gift from the two who have been music business partners in the past will be used to create the Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation.

The academy will provide a special four-year program for undergraduates whose interests span several fields from marketing to computer science to visual design and other arts. It will include one-on-one faculty mentoring with professors from programs around the university and interaction with entertainment industry luminaries.

Dr. Dre

"The vision and generosity of Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young will profoundly influence the way all of us perceive and experience artistic media," USC President C. L. Max Nikias said in a statement. "We are committed to encouraging our students to use their intellectual and creative resources to effect change in all segments of society. Our goal is to ensure that the academy is the most collaborative educational program in the world."

The academy will accept its first class of 25 students in the fall of 2014.

Iovine is the co-founder of Interscope Records, chairman of Interscope Geffen A&M and a mentor on the TV singing competition "American Idol."

Dr. Dre is best known as a producer, solo rapper and co-owner of Death Row records. He later started his own record label, Aftermath Entertainment.

Beyonce cancels Belgium show under doctor's orders

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyonce is canceling her Tuesday concert in Belgium because of dehydration and exhaustion.

In an email to The Associated Press, the singer's publicist says Beyonce has been advised by her doctors to rest. She was scheduled to perform at the Sportpaleis in Antwerp. The show will be rescheduled and tickets can be used at that show.

Her next tour date is Wednesday at the same arena. The statement says "she is awaiting word from her doctors before making a decision."

Beyonce, 31, launched her "Mrs. Carter World Tour" last month in Belgrade, Serbia. It wraps Aug. 5 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Trace Adkins picks unknown singer for TV duets

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—"Celebrity Apprentice" finalist Trace Adkins has an apprentice of his own.

In the market for a duet partner, Adkins picked out an unknown singer he saw at a junior-college fundraiser to join him for his appearances this week on "Today" and "Fox & Friends." He surprised 23-year-old Maureen Maltez with a copy of the song during a jazz dance class two weeks ago, and after a few quick rehearsals, the two boarded a plane Tuesday to New York.

"There were any number of seasoned professionals here in town that of course I could have gone with and they would have done a beautiful job," Adkins said. "But I saw her sing ... and I remembered her and I just thought, 'I bet it would really mean something if she were to do it.' I know what I would have thought if I was (young) and somebody would have come in and said, 'Hey, you want to go to New York City and sing on the "Today" show?'"

If his reaction was anything like Maltez's, he would have freaked out.

She remembers standing backstage following her performance at the fundraiser when a 6-foot-7 man she'd never met walked up. Maltez's college instructor runs a dance studio where Adkins' daughters take classes, but she had no idea of that connection four months ago.

"All he said was, 'Hello, my name is Trace Adkins and you sing beautiful.' I wrote it down," Maltez said before a rehearsal Monday at Adkins' Brentwood home. "A friend of mine was beside me and he was like, 'Oh, my gosh!' I could barely sleep that night."

AP

In this May 13, 2013 photo, country singer Trace Adkins, center, and Maureen Maltez rehearse the song "Watch the World End" in Franklin, Tenn.

She never expected to see him again, but two weeks ago he walked into her class at Columbia State Community College and handed her a CD with "Watch the World End," a song from his new album, "Love Will ...," that features Colbie Caillat. Caillat was unable to make it to New York with Adkins this week.

Adkins gave Maltez a night to rehearse the song and returned with his piano player the next day to see how they sounded together. Satisfied, he invited her to New York. Adkins' wife, Rhonda, took the Miami-born, Honduras-raised singer on a shopping trip for outfits and invited her into their home.

"What I really like is I didn't feel like a stranger around them," Maltez said.

The nerves were already apparent Monday, less than 48 hours before her appearance Wednesday on the "Today" show. She's never been to New York, sung in front of more than 1,000 people, or appeared on national television.

Adkins thinks she'll do just fine.

"I want this to be fun for her, something she remembers," he said. "As I was leaving (her school) a couple of the ladies came outside and caught me, and they had tears in their eyes and they were like, 'You don't understand, this girl is so special.' I said, 'You don't have to tell me about that.' I saw the aura when she walked out onstage. There's something about her. She has that thing. I saw it right off."

Prince Harry tours storm-damaged NJ shore

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, New Jersey (AP)—Britain's Prince Harry toured two New Jersey shore communities devastated by Superstorm Sandy, shaking hands with emergency personnel and construction workers before spending Tuesday afternoon in New York City at events promoting tourism, entrepreneurism and philanthropy. He even got a chance to play a little baseball.

In Seaside Heights, where the MTV reality show "Jersey Shore" was made, Harry and his tour guide, Gov. Chris Christie, also took part in a game of chance along the boardwalk, throwing plastic balls into holes for prizes, which they handed over to children.

The prince suggested to a girl partnered with him, Allie Cirigliano, 7, that she pick a blue penguin as a prize. But she didn't want it. "Don't listen to me," he said with a laugh. She chose a Hello Kitty doll instead.

The prince came within sight of the surf-washed Jet Star Roller Coaster, which became a defining image of the October storm when it blew off an amusement pier into the Atlantic Ocean. A crane later began tearing the ride apart. Harry also greeted construction workers who have been working on rebuilding Seaside Heights' boardwalk, now about two-thirds complete.

At a morning stop in Mantoloking, residents flew Union Jack flags. Christie showed the prince a spot where the sea had cut the town in half, taking out a bridge and houses. The channel has since been filled in. Every one of the wealthy town's 521 homes was damaged or destroyed. Scores remain as piles of rubble.

"This used to be a house?" Harry asked at one barren spot.

One handwritten sign read: "Prince Harry please come back when we're restored."

The prince said he was impressed to see "everyone getting together and making things right."

At both his New Jersey stops, girls and young women jostled for position to get a good look, take pictures and fantasize about marriage proposals.

"He is so cute. He came in with that white shirt and red hair, and he just exceeded all my expectations," said Brianna Marchal, 19, of Manahawkin, during his second stop.

Woman needs courage to end man's plan for future together

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a divorcee with college-aged children. I love my children, and I thought I loved my ex. However, after my divorce I wonder if I'm capable of loving anyone other than my children again.

Two years after the divorce I started a relationship with a man who is 10 years older. He had recently ended a long-term dating/living together relationship. I wasn't particularly drawn to him, but he was very persistent. We finally, jokingly, agreed to be "exclusively casual" and began dating. My children don't dislike him; they are indifferent to him.

We have been dating for six years. I do not love him. He, however, professes to adore me and wants us to spend our lives together. I do NOT want this to go on any longer. I have some serious health issues and I'm not interested in having him as my caretaker. He has already made plans for us to be together for this. I don't want him doing this for me.

He's a good man. He deserves someone who wants the devotion he is so willing to give. How do I tell him to move on? I'm financially stable. He's not after my money; he's very comfortable on his own. I need to force him to go find a woman who needs or wants him. Many of his friends think I take advantage of his feelings. I don't want to be in this position any longer. Any advice you could offer would be a gift.

DRAGGING MY FEET IN TEXAS

DEAR DRAGGING YOUR FEET: The longer you put this off, the harder it will be, and if you don't open your mouth you are going to find yourself in exactly the position you say you don't want to be. The magic words are:

"'John,' I have enjoyed your friendship, but I'm not in love with you. I had hoped that as time passed I would fall in love with you, but it hasn't happened and now I realize it isn't going to. I want to deal with my health issues on my own. I don't want you to be my caretaker. What I DO want is to end our relationship so you can find a woman who will love you the way you deserve to be loved. Sadly, that's not me—but I wish you well and ... goodbye."

Do not expect him to welcome this dose of reality, but those are the words that will set you—and him—free.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a veteran and while I have spent this past year in school, I can't seem to connect with any of the younger students there. It's disheartening, to be honest, and I feel it's part of the reason I can't enjoy school at my age (23) after all my experiences in combat.

I can't decide whether to drop out and join a private security company, or tough it out and deal with these kids who don't take education seriously. I miss work at the same time. Any thoughts?

TORN IN MILFORD, CONN.

DEAR TORN: The students you describe are at a very different level of maturity than you—and I don't mean chronologically. After having experienced combat, you have a different perspective on what's important in life than someone who hasn't been tested.

You have EARNED the right to a college degree, so please don't waste the opportunity. If you complete your education, you will have more career options than if you quit now. If you feel you want to go into security work after graduation, that option will still be open. Others may not be.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

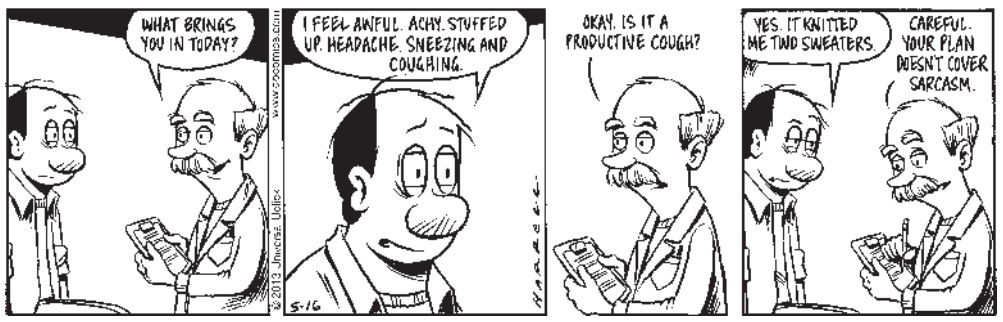
THIS TIGER IS SPRAWLED SO STILL AND SO FLAT, A QUESTION ARISES WHEN GLANCING THEREAT.
IS HE ASLEEP? TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK, HE LOOKS MORE AS IF HE WAS CREAMED BY A TANK!
AAAUGH
5-16

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

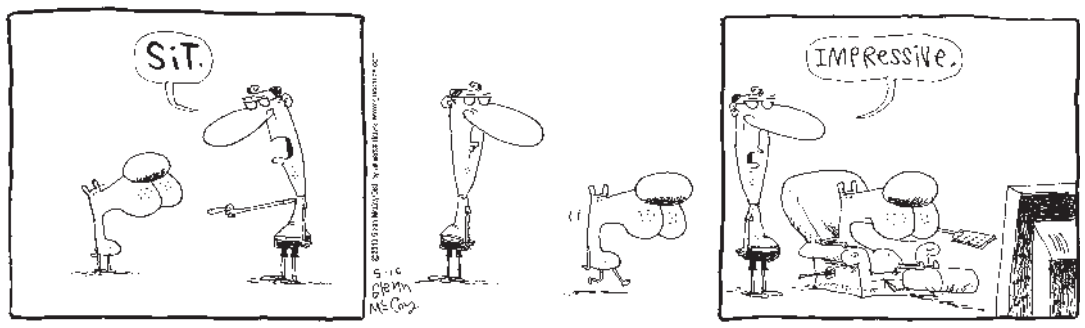
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT BRINGS YOU IN TODAY?
I FEEL AWFUL. ACHY. STUFFED UP. HEADACHE. SNEEZING AND COUGHING.
OKAY. IS IT A PRODUCTIVE COUGH?
YES. IT KNITTED ME TWO SWEATERS.
CAREFUL. YOUR PLAN DOESN'T COVER SARCASM.
5-16

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Radius neighbor
5 Letterman's network
8 Atlantic food fish
12 Public disturbance
13 Have a bug
14 Dumbo's "wings"
15 Pace
16 Also
17 Greek vowels
18 Proofreader's finds
20 Lava rock
22 Army rank (Abbr.)
23 Cul-de-—
24 Make fun of
27 Small caterpillar
32 Literary collection
33 Actress Vardalos
34 Cattle call
35 Braised beef
38 Help in crime
39 Swiss river
40 Spring mo.
42 Walk quietly
45 Lengthy list
49 Defeat decisively
50 Bashful
52 Pelvic bones
53 "— do for now"
54 Not neg.
55 Punch
56 Partner
57 Nevertheless
58 Golf gadgets

DOWN
1 Incite
2 Tale-teller
3 Bleak, in Hollywood
4 Assault
5 California island
6 Resume
7 Unkempt one
8 Playground favorite
9 Subterranean passage
10 Caspian feeder
11 "Hey, you!"
19 Gift-tag word
21 Baseball bat wood
24 Treasure hunter's aid
25 Yoko of music
26 Grenade hurler
28 Serbian city
29 Stimulus of a kind
30 Fish eggs
31 Witticism
36 Baby's toy
37 Acapulco gold
38 Sculptor, e.g.
41 "Life of —" (2012 movie)
42 Decorate
43 Tittle
44 Catch sight of
46 Lotion additive
47 Pleasing
48 Tibetan herd
51 Weeding tool

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	I	S	C	■	U	R	L	■	O	M	E	N
E	V	I	L	■	Z	O	O	■	N	A	P	E
M	A	G	A	Z	I	N	E	■	A	G	E	S
E	N	N	U	I	■	■	B	R	I	N	E	S
■	■	■	S	P	A	Y	■	O	R	E	■	■
D	A	M	E	■	P	E	S	T	■	T	E	D
A	L	A	■	I	S	A	A	C	■	I	R	E
M	P	G	■	D	E	S	K	■	S	C	A	N
■	■	N	E	E	■	T	I	M	E	■	■	■
A	G	O	R	A	S	■	■	A	R	O	S	E
T	A	L	E	■	M	A	G	R	I	T	T	E
O	T	I	C	■	O	N	F	■	F	T	A	I
P	E	A	T	■	G	Y	M	■	S	O	Y	S

Yesterday's answer 5-16

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 27; Tori Spelling, 40; Janet Jackson, 47; Pierce Brosnan, 60

Happy Birthday: Secure your assets and prepare for the future. Avoid risky ventures and unpredictable people. Size up your situation and you will find a unique way to deal with any matter that has the potential to spin out of control. Focus and effort may be required in order to maintain your status quo. Knowledge will be key when dealing with competitive people. Your numbers are 3, 12, 19, 21, 25, 42, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A friend or lover will help you make a difficult decision. Resolve situations that are weighing heavily on your mind. Show compassion and you will get your way. Hearing about or seeing someone from your past will ignite a renewed interest. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't let anyone force you into an argument. Be a silent observer instead of a stubborn participant. Making an assumption will lead to a costly mistake. Get your facts and figures straight before you take on someone who is knowledgeable. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Use your intelligence and knowledge to clear up unfinished business. Personal conversations will help to establish what you can expect from the people you share your private life with and help you learn what is expected of you in return. Don't gossip. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Push to do fulfilling creative projects that highlight what you enjoy doing most and utilize your skills to the maximum. Put yourself first and embrace the changes you want to make. Network with people who share your interests. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Face an emotional situation head-on and avoid an encounter that is a waste of your time. Being overly generous will not solve a problem. Communicate honestly and get your point across. Don't worry about what others think. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Explore your options and travel to places that offer knowledge, experience and opportunity. Do your own fact-finding and stick to your guidelines, principles and set plans. Don't let indulgence be your downfall. Someone will be dishonest with you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take action and impress everyone with your talents and skills. Fundraising, volunteer work or lending a helping hand will make you feel good as long as you don't let anyone take advantage of you financially or emotionally. Love is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Review the past to avoid making the same mistake twice. Impulsive actions will be your downfall. Take your time, even if someone is pressuring you. Focus on creative endeavors that you can pursue at your own speed. Don't spend foolishly. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Know what's expected of you and tend to your responsibilities first so you can focus on more engaging pastimes. Love and romance along with favorable changes at home will improve your outlook and future. Honesty and integrity must be maintained. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Spend more time on projects that will enhance your surroundings or bring you in contact with people who have something to offer you personally or professionally. Don't allow someone from your past to disrupt your life even if temptation is enticing. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Weed out the people and indulgences in your life that are weighing you down. Focus on home, family and building a stable and secure future. A change that entails personal goals you have yet to achieve will pay off. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Ask pertinent questions until you fully understand what's expected of you. Someone will withhold information. A problem with a friend, neighbor or relative will burden you with added responsibilities. Back away if the stakes are too high. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intelligent, persuasive and creative. You are charming and unique.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3	7	1			4	3		
4			5			6		
1		4				2		7
								3
2		5				4		
			6			7		8
								9
			4	9		3	1	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	7	9	3	8	6	5	2
2	8	3	7	5	6	1	4	9
5	9	6	1	2	4	8	7	3
8	6	4	2	9	5	3	1	7
9	3	5	8	1	7	4	2	6
7	1	2	6	4	3	5	9	8
4	7	1	3	8	2	9	6	5
6	5	8	4	7	9	2	3	1
3	2	9	5	6	1	7	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POWDERS Solution: 8 letters

P	C	F	G	Y	B	A	B	A	K	I	N	G	C	C
O	H	L	E	R	D	R	I	N	K	S	A	G	E	I
L	I	A	D	R	O	N	I	O	N	D	R	I	M	L
Y	L	X	R	N	T	U	W	H	I	T	E	N	E	R
E	I	S	Z	M	A	I	T	L	N	C	N	G	N	A
S	Y	E	B	I	A	S	L	O	C	O	O	E	T	G
T	R	E	E	L	S	C	L	I	I	F	T	R	G	S
E	R	D	A	K	T	Y	E	N	Z	F	L	R	A	N
R	U	B	R	S	N	S	T	U	N	E	E	O	L	I
A	C	O	I	P	A	T	N	Ⓦ	T	E	R	A	U	A
S	O	R	N	I	L	A	Ⓞ	N	N	I	O	T	M	R
H	C	A	G	C	P	Ⓝ	U	S	X	C	C	L	C	G
E	O	C	S	E	Ⓢ	G	N	I	N	O	S	A	E	S
S	A	M	C	I	T	E	M	S	O	C	K	S	L	O
N	R	E	P	P	E	P	R	O	T	E	I	N	S	S

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Alum, Ashes, Baby, Baking, Bearings, Bronzer, Cake, Carob, Cement, Chili, Coal, Cocoa, Coffee, Cosmetic, Curry, Dill, Drinks, Fertilizer, Flaxseed, Flour, Garlic, Ginger, Grains, Greens, Grout, Gun, Milk, Mix, Nuts, Nylon, Onion, Pepper, Pharmaceuticals, Plants, Polyester, Proteins, Sage, Salt, Sand, Seasonings, Snow, Spice, Tapioca, Toner, Whitener

Yesterday's Answer: Dressings

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 can be ordered by calling toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.tribunecontentagency.com. (Contains 100 puzzles, including 20 20x20 puzzles.)

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1 Dive Instructor, must be PADI licensed. 1 Sales Agent, both positions must understand Mandarin. Mail resume to KDC PMB 1175 Box 10001 SPN.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. $450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. $450-$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. $550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

JOBEL CORPORATION
P.O. Box 505223 Saipan, MP 96950
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Teacher

Salary $5.55p/h. Min. 4 yrs exp. Must have certificate for infant & toddler competency & safety training from DCCA.
Email thomastchong@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Manager

Min. 5 yrs experience. Extensive knowledge in Accounting, Office Management & Insurance Industry. Ability to adjust in different working environments & deal with various clients of different ethnicity. Salary commensurate with work experience. Send police clearance together with cover letter & resume to friendshipinformation @gmail.com or Friendship Ent., Inc., P.O. Box 501193 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

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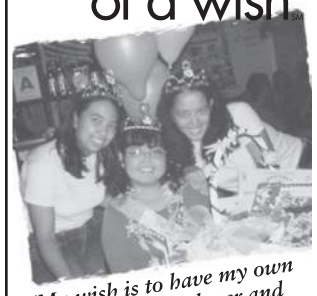

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Pacers rout Knicks 93-82 to take 3-1 series lead

AP

Indiana Pacers' Paul George is fouled by New York Knicks' Tyson Chandler during the second half of Game 4 of an Eastern Conference semifinal NBA basketball playoff series, on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indiana Pacers finally figured it out.

When given the chance to take command of a playoff series, they can't give it back. On Tuesday night, they didn't.

George Hill scored 26 points and Paul George had 18 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists, leading the Pacers past the New York Knicks, 93-82 and to within one win of their first conference finals appearance since 2004.

"We wanted it," George said. "For us to come out with that edge, still, after being up 2-1 and being on our floor for Game 4, for us to be up and ready and have an edge to play, it just speaks to how focused we are right now."

It was a far cry from what Indiana experienced a week ago in New York. Or last year at home against Miami.

Last week, the Knicks rallied from a Game 1 loss, using a 30-2 run to blow out Indiana at Madison Square Garden and even the series.

A year ago, the Pacers held a 2-1 lead over Miami but gave away Game 4 and never won again. Miami went on to win the NBA crown.

So the Pacers went into Tuesday night determined not let it happen again, certainly not with former stars Reggie Miller and Rik Smits in the house watching their old team hand it to their old rivals.

"I just think that our focus has been better than it was," Indiana's David West said. "We might have surprised ourselves going in there and getting Game 1. Naturally, we may have had a little letdown, but we talked about maintaining our home court and our focus in these two games and we were able to accomplish that. Our next goal is to compete hard with an opportunity for a close-out game in a tough environment."

The Pacers were strong defensively again, had another big rebounding advantage (54-36) and never really let the Knicks challenge them in the second half. They can wrap up the series Thursday night in New York.

Desperate New York tried everything to change the script. Nothing worked.

Kenyon Martin played 29 minutes and J.R. Smith logged 31 1/2 despite missing practice Sunday and Monday because they were ill. Guard Iman Shumpert started even with a sore and swollen left knee that had the Knicks so worried they brought an orthopedic doctor to Indy to examine it Tuesday. The doctor determined there was no structural damage.

Amare Stoudemire was called for four fouls in 11-plus minutes in his second game back since March 7 and had only four points and four rebounds.

NBA scoring champion Carmelo Anthony finished with 24 points before fouling out with 2 minutes left in the game. He took only four shots in the fourth quarter and was held without a basket over the final 12 minutes for the second straight game.

Smith, the NBA's top sixth man, scored 19 points, most coming in a futile attempt to rally his team late.

And on a night New York shot just 35.6 percent from the field and 28.6 percent on 3-pointers, the ugliest part may have been how the Knicks lost their composure, giving away points on technical foul calls, arguing with the refs, even smacking the press table in frustration.

"I can't lose hope," coach Mike Woodson said. "It takes four games to get out of this series. We go home, we handle our business and we get back here on Friday and see if we can force Game 7."

Game 6 would be Saturday, but given the Knicks' track record at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, it might not matter.

New York dropped to 0-4 at Indiana this season. The Pacers and Memphis Grizzlies are the only playoff teams that are unbeaten at home. Indiana has won all five home games by double digits and has won five of its last six overall.

New York is convinced it can get things turned around quickly after losing five of its last seven, mostly because of horrendous shooting.

"It's do or die, we got to win the next game," Anthony said. "But there's no need for anyone to hang their heads at this point. We've still got a game to play, we've still got to play basketball and we've got to do it being very confident and knowing and believing that we can do it."

How bad was this one?

New York tied the score at 14, then allowed the Pacers to go on a 9-2 run to make it 23-16 after one quarter. The Knicks never got as closer than five the rest of the way, and never led Tuesday night.

Instead, Indiana methodically extended the lead by fighting off New York rallies.

After the Knicks got within 35-30 in the second quarter, Indiana pulled way to make it 48-34 at halftime. When New York closed to 54-43 in the third, Indiana scored seven straight. And when the Knicks finally cut the deficit to 69-61 in the fourth, Indiana went on another 7-0 run to retake control.

But if the Pacers have learned anything over the past year, it's this: The series is not over.

"I think we have to go into New York like we're in an elimination game, like we're going about to get eliminated and play like we're down 1-3," Hill said. "I think if we do that and play with the same type of energy and passion that we played with tonight, we can come away with a win. But it's not going to be easy."

Spurs 109, Warriors 91

In San Antonio, Gregg Popovich urged his San Antonio Spurs to raise their energy to almost maniacal levels, because winning the battle on the boards and for loose balls was critical against the athletic Golden State Warriors.

The Spurs responded to their coach's message, outworking and outmuscling Golden State to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

Tony Parker had 25 points and 10 assists, and the Spurs held the Warriors' starting backcourt to 13 points for a 109-91 victory Tuesday night.

The Spurs outrebounded the Warriors 38-36, forced 14 turnovers and limited them to 16 second-chance points.

"Our energy was good," Parker said. "We got the 50-50 ball; that was huge for us tonight. It was a tough turnaround for us in Game 4. We missed an opportunity at the end and we realize that. Tonight we played for 48 minutes."

Kawhi Leonard added 17 points, Danny Green scored 16 and Tim Duncan had 14 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio.

Harrison Barnes scored 25 points, Jarrett Jack added 20 and Carl Landry 16 for Golden State, but Stephen Curry was held to nine points.

"I was terrible, plain and simple," Curry said. "They outplayed us as a team. Individually, I didn't have anything on either end. (I was) a step slow, my shot wasn't falling and I was trying to make plays but defensively I lost a little focus."

Parker took advantage, going 9 for 16 and turning the ball over only twice in 34 minutes.

His energy was just as big a spark.

Parker dove over Jarrett Jack midway through the third quarter to corral a loose ball, rising to lead a fast break that resulted in a dunk by Green.

Even Popovich displayed more energy, chasing referee Ed Malloy down the sidelines from the free throw line to just past midcourt while screaming and motioning for a timeout with 9 minutes left in the game.

The added energy was especially evident against Curry and Klay Thompson.

The Spurs held Mark Jackson's self-proclaimed "greatest shooting backcourt" in NBA history to 6-for-22 shooting. Curry was 1 for 7 on 3-pointers, while Thompson was held to four points while not even attempting a 3.

"The series for us is all about the defense," Popovich said. "(Leonard and Green) did a good job; (there were) other people who did good work out there. We got a lot of mismatches. They love those mismatches, so we have to play intelligently. I thought we did that tonight.

"But we followed up the defense with a board. There is no stop until the board is secured. That was our main emphasis going into the game."

Curry has not missed any time since turning his left ankle late in Game 3, but the injury seemed to limit his explosiveness.

Leonard stripped Curry and then outran him to the ball midway through the first quarter, feeding Parker for an uncontested layup. Curry appeared to grimace when he attempted to push off to sprint for the loose ball.

"It is sore, but I came in feeling good," Curry said. "I was pretty optimistic about how I could play tonight, but it didn't go that way."

He played only 4 1/2 minutes in the fourth quarter, leaving the game for good with 4 minutes left and San Antonio leading 102-84.

"It got to a point where they had made plays and I had to look towards Game 6," Jackson said. "It was just being smart, that's all. I didn't want to see him get hurt. Obviously, he wasn't 100 percent. I just felt if we were going to make a run, let's make a run and then maybe get him back in, but it was just a long night for us."

The Spurs led for all but the opening 6 minutes of the game and moved one game closer to advancing to their 12th conference finals in franchise history.

"Nobody talks about getting this over with like you've got a rash," Popovich said. "Like you can take a pill or put some cream on it, it's going to be gone. This is a war. They're a class team; they bust their ass at both ends of the floor. It's not about getting rid of anything. It's about going and playing and that's about it."

San Antonio went on a 12-2 run to take a 102-84 lead with 4 minutes remaining. The Warriors missed two shots and had two turnovers to facilitate the Spurs' run.

San Antonio shot 72 percent in the first quarter, pounding the ball inside for layups and kick outs to open shooters in taking a 10-point lead.

Duncan battered Andrew Bogut early, making San Antonio's first three baskets on a drive and a jumper over the Australian and on a layup against Landry off a hard pick by Tiago Splitter.

San Antonio went on a 15-0 run on a series of drives to the basket and low-post moves, taking a 27-15 lead.

Curry and Thompson were held to a combined four points on 2-for-10 shooting in the opening 16 minutes, but Barnes had 13 points and Jack seven.

"We just missed shots," Curry said. "Early in the game I got a little off balance a couple (times) trying to get a foul. They play good defense. We didn't get into a rhythm. We just missed shots."

Curry did not make his first 3 until there were 2 minutes left in the first half.

The Spurs stopped going inside in the second quarter, helping Golden State rally.

The Spurs returned to attacking the basket in the third, resulting in another double-digit lead.

Rays' Moore beats Red Sox for AL-leading 7th win

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Matt Moore pitched six solid innings to remain unbeaten and tie for the major league lead in wins, sending the surging Tampa Bay Rays to a 5-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday night.

Moore (7-0) yielded a three-run homer to David Ortiz in the first, then limited the struggling Red Sox to one hit over the next five innings.

The Rays overcame the early deficit with a five-run fifth off John Lackey (1-4). Jose Molina and Matt Joyce each drove in two runs in the inning, helping Tampa Bay extend its winning streak to a season-high six games.

Boston has lost six of seven, including three straight.

Moore allowed three hits and struck out eight. The 23-year-old lefty matched Washington's Jordan Zimmerman for the major league lead in victories, became the first Tampa Bay starter to begin a season 7-0 and tied a club record by winning his eighth straight decision dating to September.

Fernando Rodney struck out the side in the ninth to finish the combined three-hitter and earn his seventh save.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Matt Moore delivers to Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury during the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, May 14, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Yankees 4, Mariners 3

In New York, Robinson Cano hit a two-run double, Lyle Overbay delivered a tiebreaking sacrifice fly and New York rallied past Seattle after Felix Hernandez left following a couple of odd twists.

Hernandez exited after six innings with a 3-1 lead, having outpitching CC Sabathia in the first matchup between the former Cy Young Award winners. Hernandez, however, tweaked his back in the sixth when he fielded a comebacker, pivoted and threw to second for a forceout.

The right-hander allowed one earned run in another strong outing at Yankee Stadium, and leads the AL with a 1.53 ERA. Sabathia, who had won his last eight starts against Seattle, struck out 10 in 6 1-3 innings while giving up 10 hits.

Raul Ibanez hit a two-run homer for Seattle in his return to Yankee Stadium. New York star Curtis Granderson came off the disabled list and went 0 for 3 with a walk in his season debut.

Down 3-1, the Yankees rallied for three runs in the seventh to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Charlie Furbush (0-2) gave up Cano's tying double off the base of the wall in right-center.

Shawn Kelley (2-0) got two outs and Mariano Rivera remained perfect in 16 save chances this season.

Rangers 6, Athletics 5, 10 innings

In Oakland, Calif., Adrian Beltre hit a tiebreaking home run in the 10th inning, Mitch Moreland followed with his second of the game and Joe Nathan made sure Texas held off Oakland.

Nathan gave up a run in the bottom of the 10th but escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam to snap Texas' four-game losing streak to the Athletics.

Beltre sent a 3-0 pitch from Chris Resop (1-1) to center field with one out in the 10th for his ninth homer of the year. Moreland connected two batters later. He also hit a two-run shot in the fourth.

Nathan needed 31 pitches to nail down his 12th save in as many chances this season. After a pair of one-out walks, Seth Smith doubled in a run. Nathan intentionally walked Brandon Moss before striking out Daric Barton. The closer then retired pinch-hitter Eric Sogard on a first-pitch groundout to end it.

Tanner Scheppers (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Nelson Cruz's second sacrifice fly of the game tied it in the eighth against Ryan Cook.

A's manager Bob Melvin was ejected for the third time this season.

Angels 6, Royals 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Albert Pujols, Howie Kendrick, Josh Hamilton and Mike Trout all homered off Jeremy Guthrie, and Los Angeles handed the Kansas City right-hander his first loss in 19 starts.

Hamilton, the Angels' right fielder, made his fourth start at designated hitter after being removed from Monday night's series-opening loss in the seventh inning because of lightheadedness.

Guthrie (5-1) yielded five runs and 11 hits over seven innings. He held the franchise record for consecutive starts without a loss while winning his previous 10 decisions. It was his first loss since Aug. 3 last year, when Texas beat him 5-3 at Kansas City.

It was the first time in Guthrie's 10-year career that he allowed four homers in a game.

Jason Vargas (2-3) gave up five hits in seven-plus innings and struck out seven. Both runs against the left-hander were knocked in by Billy Butler, who homered and had an RBI double.

Tigers 6, Astros 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered, Doug Fister pitched seven impressive innings and Andy Dirks gave the Tigers a lift for a second straight night in Detroit's victory over Houston.

Dirks hit a grand slam in Monday's win over Houston, and a night later he capped a three-run fifth with a tiebreaking double. The Tigers added two more runs in the sixth, and Cabrera hit his eighth homer in the seventh, a solo shot that gave Detroit a 6-2 lead.

Fister (5-1) allowed two runs and five hits. He struck out seven without a walk.

Lucas Harrell (3-4) gave up five runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. The Astros have lost six straight and 16 of 19.

White Sox 4, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Adam Dunn and Dayan Viciedo hit consecutive homers to back another strong start from Jake Peavy in Chicago's victory over Minnesota.

Peavy (5-1) gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings and Tyler Flowers' double in the eighth scored the go-ahead run for the White Sox. Addison Reed earned his 12th save.

Kevin Correia (4-3) allowed four runs and nine hits in seven innings.

Blue Jays 10, Giants 6

In Toronto, R.A. Dickey snapped a four-start winless streak, Melky Cabrera had four hits against his former team and Toronto beat San Francisco.

Edwin Encarnacion drove in two runs and scored twice as the Blue Jays had a season-high 18 hits and won three straight games for the second time this season.

Dickey (3-5) struck out a season-high 10 in six innings, allowing two runs and six hits, to win for the first time since April 18 against the White Sox.

Brandon Belt hit a solo homer and Pablo Sandoval added a three-run shot in the ninth but it wasn't enough for the NL West-leading Giants, who had won three straight and 10 of 13.

Cabrera went 4 for 5 with two RBIs. He reached on an error and hit an RBI single in Toronto's six-run first inning.

Padres 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Chris Denorfia and Everth Cabrera hit two-out RBI singles off Jim Johnson in the ninth inning, and San Diego got a home run from Carlos Quentin in a victory over Baltimore.

After the Orioles took a 2-1 lead in the eighth, Johnson (1-3) entered with a franchise-record streak of 35 straight converted saves. He immediately gave up two consecutive singles before getting Jedd Gyorko to hit into a 6-4-3 double play. But Denorfia followed with a single up the middle and, after Johnson hit Nick Hundley with a pitch, Cabrera singled to center for a 3-2 lead.

Luke Gregerson (2-2) got the last out in the eighth and Huston Street earned his ninth save. The Padres were 0-18 when trailing after eight innings.

Cardinals 10, Mets 4

In St. Louis, Carlos Beltran drove in four runs and rookie left-hander John Gast picked up a win in his major league debut, helping the St. Louis Cardinals cruise past the New York Mets 10-4 on Tuesday night.

Gast (1-0) tossed five shutout innings before giving up four runs in the sixth. He surrendered six hits, struck out three and walked one in a 71-pitch effort to help the Cardinals win for the fifth time in six games and 11th in their last 13.

Beltran slammed a three-run homer in the fifth inning, his team-high 10th, to give St. Louis a 9-0 lead. He also added a run-scoring hit in the third.

Rockies 9, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Carlos Gonzalez homered twice and finished with a career-high five hits to lead the struggling Rockies to a victory over the Cubs.

Gonzalez was 5 for 5 and fell a triple shy of a cycle, and Eric Young Jr. also homered for the Rockies, who had lost five of their last six.

Colorado increased its lead to 5-0 in the third when Gonzalez hit his eighth of the season deep into the right-field bleachers. His home run in the ninth put the Rockies up 8-3 and gave him nine multi-home run games in his career.

Jeff Francis (2-3), winless since April 5, gave up one run and three hits while striking out seven in six innings. He was 0-3 with an 8.25 ERA over his previous six outings.

Reds 6, Marlins 2

In Miami, Homer Bailey pitched a six-hitter to earn his first victory since April 5, and the Reds extended their winning streak to four games by beating the Marlins.

Xavier Paul hit a three-run double for the Reds, who took advantage of consecutive bases-loaded walks by Ricky Nolasco. Brandon Phillips, who began the night tied for the NL lead in RBIs, drove in two runs.

Bailey (2-3), who threw a career-high 125 pitches, tied his major league best with 10 strikeouts and walked none in his fourth complete game. He retired the final eight batters, and his last pitch was a 97 mph fastball.

Diamondbacks 2, Braves 0

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin allowed three hits in seven innings and the Diamondbacks turned an infield double into two runs to beat the Braves.

Corbin (6-0) worked around five walks by inducing three double plays and struck out five to win his career-high sixth straight game. He is the first Diamondbacks pitcher to start 6-0 since Brandon Webb won nine straight in 2008.

Corbin also helped keep Braves slugger Justin Upton in check after his impressive performance the night before and Heath Bell worked around an error in the ninth for his fifth save in the combined four-hitter.

Pirates 4, Brewers 3, 12 innings

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen homered leading off the bottom of the 12th inning to lift the Pirates to a victory over the Brewers.

McCutchen hit a 2-2 pitch from Mike Fiers (0-2) into the right-center field stands for his fifth home run of the season and the fourth game-ending shot of his career.

Pittsburgh's Jose Tabata had three hits, Russell Martin hit two doubles and Neil Walker had two hits.

Vin Mazzaro (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings to help the Pirates beat the Brewers for the just the second time in their last 12 meetings. Milwaukee had won five straight games at PNC Park.

Dodgers 2, Nationals 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw scattered five hits while striking out 11 in 8 2-3 innings, and Andre Ethier delivered a two-run single as the Dodgers beat the Nationals.

Kershaw (4-2) picked up his first win since April 28 but had to escape a bases-loaded jam in the first inning. He did so by striking out Tyler Moore.

The Dodgers scored their only runs in the third inning after Kershaw walked and Matt Kemp singled. Both runners advanced on a wild pitch and scored on Ethier's single to center.

Nationals pitcher Dan Haren (4-4) was looking to secure his fourth consecutive win but a troublesome third inning turned out to be costly.

Phillies 6, Indians 2

In Philadelphia, Jonathan Pettibone pitched neatly into the seventh, Kevin Frandsen and Domonic Brown hit solo homers and the Phillies beat the Indians.

John Mayberry Jr. had three hits and three RBIs, including a go-ahead two-run double for the Phillies, who won their third straight game to get within two wins of .500.

Pettibone (3-0) allowed two runs and four hits in 6 2-3 innings, the longest of his five career starts. Three relievers got the next four outs and Jonathan Papelbon finished in a non-save situation after Philadelphia tacked on two runs in the eighth.

MP United vs Matansa in FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2013 NMIFA Spring FA Boys & Girls Cup is down from 10 to two teams with MP United U12 and Matansa U12 colliding for the championship this Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa U12 notched a finals berth in the single-elimination tournament after beating Tan Holdings Girls U15 in the semifinals, 3-1, last Tuesday at the Hopwood pitch. MP United won the other semis pairing, topping rival Paire U12, 2-1.

Juan Quitano made the twin goals for MP United, scoring his first one in the sixth minute of the one-hour match and drilling the second one in the 46th. Joining Quitano on the team are Alex Park, Clayton Izuka, Sunjoon Tenorio, Steven Martin, Joshua Abragan, Matthew Ong, Michae Lee, Eui Jin Byen, Ashton Park, Christian Bravo, Alex Kim, Makie Binalay, and Andy Kim.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MP United U12 players and their coach huddle after beating Paire U12, 2-1, in the semifinals of the 2013 NMIFA Spring FA Boys & Girls Cup last Tuesday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United started its FA Cup bid with a win against Shirley's FC U16 Girls last May 9 (finals scores were not listed in the official scoresheets). Next up for the finalist was Kanoa FC U12 and Tenorio's eight goals powered MP United U12 to a 12-0 triumph last Saturday and a Final Four duel against Paire U12.

Paire, which drew its lone goal from Dai Podziewski in the 51st minute of their semis loss to MP United, booked a Final Four ticket after eliminating Shirley's FC U12, 9-1, also last Saturday. Anthony Fruit scored five goals in the quarterfinals win, while Logan Mister chipped in four.

Matansa U12 was scheduled to play in the last quarterfinal game last Saturday at the rain-soaked Hopwood pitch and got a free semis pass after winning via forfeit against MP United Girls U15, which showed up for the match with only two players. Matansa U12 arranged a quarterfinal tiff versus MP United U15 Girls after ousting sister team Matansa Girls U15 last May 9, 3-1.

Ronnel Ocanada logged twin goals in Matansa U12's victory, while Jether Yobech made the other one. Scorers in Matansa's semis win over Tan Holdings Girls U15 were not listed on the official match report. Tan Holdings Girls U15 advanced to the semis after a 1-0 triumph over Tan Holdings U12.

Meanwhile, the Matansa U12 and MP United U12 title showdown will be played at 4:30pm this Saturday after the third place and 2:30pm match between Paire U12 and Tan Holdings Girls U15.

US, Russia and Iran to wrestle in New York

By LUKE MEREDITH
AP SPORTS WRITER

The governments of the United States and Russia can sometimes be at odds.

Americans and Iranians rarely see eye to eye on anything.

But the possibility of wrestling losing its Olympic spot has given these three often-divergent nations a cause to rally around.

The U.S., Russian and Iranian wrestling teams will meet on Wednesday for an historic exhibition in New York. It's a showcase event for what the sport's international governing body has dubbed "World Wrestling Month."

The IOC in February recommended that wrestling be dropped from the Olympic program starting in 2020. Wrestling now has to plead its case to the IOC to be included as a provisional sport in St. Petersburg, Russia on May 29.

The New York exhibition, known as "The Rumble on the Rails" and to be held at Grand Central Terminal, is designed to highlight the sport's international appeal and popularity. The pre-meet news conference is even being held at the United Nations, and the meet will be televised live by the NBC Sports Network and Universal Sports—a rarity for a sport struggling for ways to make itself more viewer-friendly.

The Iranians, who will be competing in the U.S. for the first time in 10 years, will also compete against the Americans at an exhibition in Los Angeles on May 19.

"In this crisis, we all stick together. Wrestlers maybe can do, sometimes, what politicians cannot," said Nenad Lalovic, the acting president of FILA, the sport's governing body. "We love our sport, and we are united to save it."

If there's one thing that the U.S., Russian and Iran have in common, it's a proud tradition of wrestling success and a deep passion for the sport that's been re-ignited by the IOC.

The Americans have won more Olympic medals in wrestling than any other country. When put in certain context, it can be argued that the U.S. wrestling team has been more successful than any other American Olympic team.

KOBLERVILLE

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(9:04.30), while the latter won runner-up honors in the 1,500m with his 6:32.26).

Figueroa got his second first place finish in the 400m (1:14.30), while Henry Fleming placed third both in the 200m (32.14 seconds) and 100m (15.10 seconds). Koblerville behind Austin and Figueroa dominated the relays, timing in at 5:45.16 in the 4x400m and 1:04.25 in the 4x100m event.

In the girls U10, Koblerville got 94 points to prevail against GTC (74), San Vicente (28), and eight other schools. The Lady Umangs collected 18 points each in the 60m and 400m runs, 12 in the 200m, 10 in the relays and 800m, and 8 in the 100m and 1,500m.

Siblings Leilani (1:14.52) and Leslie Babauta (1:20.51) notched the Top 2 places in the 400m run and the former was ranked second in the 60m with her 9.30 seconds, behind schoolmate Kirstin King (8.95 seconds). King also raced in the 200m and placed second with her 33.76 seconds.

In the 4x400m relay, the Babauta sisters, Vicklind King, and Mymay Hong posted 5:53.09 to beat the 6:309.43 of Whispering Palms and the same quartet raced in the 4x100m and timed in at 1:07.55 to edge GTC (1:11.68).

Leilani Babauta competed in her third individual event and was ranked second in the 1,500m run after clocking in at 6:49.41, while Kirstin King also finished second in the 100m sprint, timing in at 15.15 seconds. The two runners then gave Koblerville a 1-2 finish in the 60m with King recording 8.95 seconds against the 9.30 seconds of Babauta.

In the U12 age group, the Umangs had a close fight against Dandan in the boys division with the former gathering 74 points versus the latter's 66. The field events were the deciding factor in the Koblerville-Dandan tussle as the Umangs got 12 points in the vortex throw and long jump, while the Tottots gained only 8.

Sehwan Baek gave Koblerville 7 points when he finished third in the long jump (3.60m) behind Whispering Palms Logan Mister (3.87m) and GTA's Tyson Sachuo (3.76m). In the vortex throw, an Umang bet made it to the Top 10 to add more points to Koblerville's total, while Dandan notched only 8 courtesy of Kanzo Pedro's runner-up finish in the vortex throw.

In the girls U12, Koblerville was the runaway winner with its 93 points. Dandan had another bridesmaid finish, collecting 55 points, while WSR rounded out the Top 3 with its 35 points.

The Umangs earned twin-digit points in seven of the eight running events, making up for its so-so performance (one point) in the field competitions. Madeline Assito and Tyvie Ann They finished in the Top 2 in the 200m, submitting 30.99 seconds and 32.67 seconds, respectively and then switched places in the 400m with their 1:14.42 and 1:18.92. The duo also led Koblerville to first place finishes in the 4x100m (1:07.55) and 4x400m (5:32.54) relays.

Meanwhile, results in the U14 and U18 divisions will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

PTBS

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the 2012-2013 swim season satisfied," NMSF's Carol-Lynn Calobong-Pierce said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

The last local long course competition Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation hosted started with the 100m freestyle races where nine PBTs were made.

In girls 11 to 12 age group, both Karen Irinaka and Kathrine Illahi of Tsunami Saipan set PBTs in the 100m freestyle after submitting 1:34.39 (from 1:35.57) and 1:37:14 (from 1:39.48), respectively, while SSC's Taiyo Akimaru clocked in at 1:41.73, more than two seconds faster than his previous best (1:43.99).

In the boys 9 to 10, Taiga Sato chopped off more than a second from his old PBT (1:23.29), logging 1:21.65, while his SSC teammates, Suzuki Lennosuke and Miku Torres also earned new PBTs after recording 1:21.98 (from 1:24.33) and 1:43.36 (from 1:48.15), respectively.

Completing the list of swimmers who notched PBTs in the 100m freestyle were Tsunami Saipan's Takumi Sugie (1:03.32) and SSC's Christian Villacrusis (1:13.28) and David Boyer (1:25.51).

Four more PBTs were made and this time they came from the 100m breaststroke event. Tsunami Saipan's Irinaka Towa posted the biggest drop with his 2:02.48 (from 2:11.20), but SSC's Rinto Takahashi topped the boys 9 to 10 race and also tallied a PBT with his 1:44.93 (1:49.69). Rounding out the Top 3 in the same age group was Tsunami Saipan's Jhota Yoshino, who submitted a PBT of 2:03.85 (from 2:09.66), while SSC's R.J. Pierce submitted a PBT in the boys 11 to 12 division with his 2:06.63, more than four seconds faster than his old mark (2:11.36).

Pierce also earned a PBT in the 50m backstroke, as he timed in at 1:01.33, eclipsing his old mark of 1:03.41.

Four more PBTs were logged in the 50m backstroke event starting with Ashley Dangol's 1:09.58, which is way better than her seed time 1:22.16. The Tsunami Saipan bet was the lone swimmer in the girls U8 to set a new PBT in the 50m backstroke, while Sophia Gauran had the same achievement in the girls 9 to 10 age group with her 48.65 seconds (from 54.61 seconds).

In the boys U8, Tsunami Saipan's Hans Xu and Rentaro Suzuki got PBTs, clocking in at 54.36 seconds (from 57.39 seconds) and 1:10.46 (from 1:14.39).

Next up for the weekend tournament was another sprint event—the 50m breaststroke—where 11 swimmers got new PBTs. The list includes Tsunami Saipan's Natsuki Nagata (1:11.68), Gauran (51.33 seconds), Yoshino (58.16 seconds), and Nelson Batallones (1:30.64) and SSC's Sami Nimura (1:04.71) Ayaka Sato (1:15.57), Rintaro Miyawaki (59.30 seconds), Richard Villagomez (1:07.80), Lennosuke Suzuki (49.35 seconds), and Taiga Sato (53.16 seconds).

Meanwhile, results of other races and more PBTs will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

KANOA

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spot from Sun Palace FC, which holds a 5-1-1 card and drew a bye last Sunday. Notably, the Top 2 squads were scheduled to collide last Wednesday, but the anticipated match was postponed to give way to the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships.

Meanwhile, MP United shut out Paire, 3-0, to remain in the race for the Division 1 championship. Joe Miller logged two goals, while Daniel Agulto had one for MP United, which now owns a 6-1-2 record and 19 points, just two markers behind Wild Bill's.

Wild Bill's went back to the top spot after getting another win via forfeiture over Tan Holdings FC. Tan Holdings had only four players available for the weekend match. With the easy win, Wild Bill's now has 7-0-2 mark and will be battling the Division 1 championship against MP United and Inter Godfather's with the winner to be decided in the remaining games in the double-round robin competition.

Inter Godfather's slid to third place in the unofficial team standings with its 5-0-4 record after losing to Korean Football Association on Saipan (4-2-3). KFAS pulled off an upset over Inter Godfather's after getting one goal from Young Ha Hwang in the second half and an earlier goal in the first half off its foe's error.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	25	14	.641	–
Baltimore	23	16	.590	2
Boston	22	17	.564	3
Tampa Bay	20	18	.526	4 1/2
Toronto	16	24	.400	9 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	22	15	.595	–
Cleveland	21	17	.553	1 1/2
Kansas City	19	17	.528	2 1/2
Minnesota	18	18	.500	3 1/2
Chicago	16	21	.432	6

West Division

Texas	25	14	.641	–
Oakland	20	21	.488	6
Seattle	18	21	.462	7
Los Angeles	15	24	.385	10
Houston	10	30	.250	15 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	22	17	.564	–
Washington	21	18	.538	1
Philadelphia	19	21	.475	3 1/2
New York	14	22	.389	6 1/2
Miami	11	28	.282	11

Central Division

St. Louis	25	13	.658	–
Cincinnati	23	16	.590	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	22	17	.564	3 1/2
Milwaukee	16	21	.432	8 1/2
Chicago	16	23	.410	9 1/2

West Division

San Francisco	23	16	.590	–
Arizona	22	18	.550	1 1/2
Colorado	21	18	.538	2
San Diego	17	21	.447	5 1/2
Los Angeles	16	22	.421	6 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPSSA Basketball League Boys Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School's Mark Ogasawara blocks a Grace Christian Academy player during their title game in the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mt. Carmel School's Jared Sablan hugs the ball to keep it away from Grace Christian Academy's Karlo De Leon.

Mt. Carmel School's A.J. Evangelista drives against two Grace Christian Academy defenders.

Grace Christian Academy's Karlo De Leon pulls up for a jumper.

Grace Christian Academy's Dong Ha Lee goes up for a shot in the paint.

Mt. Carmel School's Mark Ogasawara pulls up for a one-hander.

Grace Christian Academy's Jacob Park is fouled by Mt. Carmel School's Jordan Butcher.

Grace Christian Academy's James Libut beats Mt. Carmel School's Ken Taguchi for the rebound.

Grace Christian Academy's Billy Hinson goes up for a baseline drive.

Mt. Carmel School's Ken Taguchi pulls up for a short jumper.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Koblerville sweeps U10, U12 titles

A Koblerville runner carries the baton during the 4x400m relay run in last Friday's 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Second of a series

Koblerville Elementary School reigned supreme in two age groups of the 2013 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championships, clinching both the boys and girls U10 and 12 crowns in last week's competition held at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the boys U10 division, the Umangs gained 100 points to beat William S. Reyes (54), San Vicente (38), San Antonio (34), Whispering Palms (23), Gregorio T. Camacho (20), Dandan (20), and Agape Christian Academy (12). Koblerville, which almost swept the elementary division titles, giving up only the girls U8 championship to Whispering Palms, earned 18 points from the 800m run, 16 from the 400m race, and 10 each in the 200m, 1,500m, and the 4x100m, and 4x400m relays. The Umangs then added 6 points apiece from the 60m and 100m sprints and long jump and 8 from the vortex throw.

Casey Figueroa and Christopher Austin gave Kobler a 1-2 finish in the 800m run with their 3:06.98 and 3:07.47, respectively, and the former also made it to the Top 3 in the 60m, placing third with his

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PTBs flow in NMISF Championship Meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Personal best times were recorded one after another in the inaugural NMISF Championship Meet held last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan entered approximately 70 swimmers in 120 different events. Some swimmers 'aged up' into a new category competing against older swimmers. Others used this meet as a chance to qualify for the Guam swim champs in two weeks. Almost all the competitive swimmers lowered their times to end

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club's Susana Villagomez competes in the 50m backstroke event in last Saturday's NMISF Championship Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Kanoa FC boosts bid for Division 2 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club remained in contention for the championship in Division 2 of the M-League after winning over Matansa last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Kanoa was awarded a victory via forfeiture, as Matansa decided not to continue the game with about 27 minutes left in the second and final half. The match was tied, 1-1, when Matansa's Gabriel Arkoh was called for a foul and was later issued a red card by referee Don Cabrera, who caught the former warding off an attacking Kanoa striker. Arkoh contested the call and soon his other teammates joined the protest before finally opting to walk out of the match.

With the free win, Kanoa improved to a 6-0-2 win-draw-loss record and took over the top

See KANOA on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa FC's Jonas Dapiawen slides to reach the ball, while a Matansa defender stay in action during the second half of their game in Division 2 of the M-League last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.